



THE PARTY'S OVER

Binge drinking poses many long term risks more severe than just a pesky hangover

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LENA YANG GRAPHICS EDITOR

Tragedy takes centre stage

CHELSEA DOBRINDT
CORD ARTS

In recent years, a dialogue regarding mental health has been slowly growing but there is always room for more discussion. University of Waterloo's (UW) drama department is blowing the topic wide open with their performance based on how a young woman with mental health issues was treated in 2007 by the Grand Valley Institution for Women in Kitchener, Ontario.

The performance, entitled *From Solitary to Solidarity: Unraveling the Ligatures of Ashley Smith*, follows the life of Ashley Smith and how government institutions treated her during her incarceration. The play also focuses on the challenges that she had to face and relates to how mental health is treated in university settings.

For those unfamiliar with the 2007 tragedy, Ashley Smith was a 19-year-old young woman who died at The Grand Valley Institution for Women. Dealing with depression and urges to self-harm from early childhood continuing up until her suicide, her case was mainly written off by the state and she was denied the help she needed to fully cope with the challenges she faced.

Placed in solitary confinement in almost every correctional facility she was transferred to, Smith lived in isolation for almost four years. The law requiring mandatory review of prisoners kept in isolation for more than two months was not

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Inside

Prepping for St. Paddy's

Staff writer Scott Glaysher offers up some St. Paddy's themed games and drinks

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Going for Ward two

Three community members announce their intent to run for the university district's ward

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End of a gold rush

Mobile applications may no longer be an easy source of revenue for amateur developers

National, page 8

Bouncing back from a scare

Laurier curler recaps her recovery from two blood clots that almost caused a stroke

SHELBY BLACKLEY
SPORTS EDITOR

Kerilynn Mathers didn't think anything serious was happening to her. Last year during the 2013 Ontario University Athletics (OUA) curling championship, the women's curling vice fell ill like the rest of her team. At the time only a second-year kinesiology major, Mathers experienced what she thought was the flu, but fought through it. The week after the OUA championship in February 2013, however, her health took a turn for the worse. "I left OUAs and went through reading week and things weren't normal," Mathers explained. "I saw a bunch of doctors and they came up with all of these things that were going on, but everything just didn't seem to be lining up." The doctors diagnosed her with a migraine. Mathers played in a mixed zones bonspiel for a junior team during reading week and found

herself in and out of the emergency room. Despite countless visits to the hospital, the doctors never changed her diagnosis. "So after about a week of that, [the doctors] finally decided they were going to do some more tests and see if there's anything going on, because my parents said, 'we're not leaving until we get answers. She hasn't had a migraine for a week.'" To rule out all possibilities, the doctors at Grand River Hospital in Kitchener decided to do more tests. And what Mathers found out would change her life. "They came back saying, 'you actually have two blood clots in your brain, and you're at risk for a possible stroke,'" she recalled. Mathers avoided having a serious stroke, which could have resulted in paralysis or even death, by just 24 hours. "If you look back and think

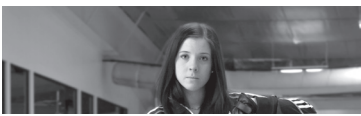
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HEATHER DAIVDSO N PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

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Vocal Cord

What is your hang-over cure or remedy?



“Coffee and sleep.”
– Sammie Ho
second-year, communi-
cations

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This Week in quotes



“I come in my first year, I go to nationals. I leave as a senior, I’m going to nationals. Who can ask for a better ending for their career?”
– Laurier basketball player **Doreen Bonsu** on receiving the **Tracy McLeod** award



“Tea. It does work. Hibiscus tea.”
– Olivia Sieczkowski
fourth-year, English



“Redbull and probably a Caesar too.”
–Andrew Tatton
third-year, communica-
tions

“People are pulling their money out of the bank and preparing for the worst.”
–**Yuliya Chervona**, political science student at WLU on the ongoing situation in Ukraine

“What you study is not necessarily a reflection of what you can accomplish. I chose a passion.”
–Laurier English student **Sarah Mathews** on the ‘Arts in Action’ event on March 6

“It’s realizing you were given a second chance.”
–Laurier curler **Kerilynn Mathers** on her close call with a stroke in 2013

“Without passion, all you have is anger, and anger is a good thing but anger won’t change the world, that is why we need hope.”
–Laurier student **Ethan Jackson**

“We aren’t trying to pretend that after a week of camping outside that we know what it’s like to be homeless.”
–’5 Days for the Homeless’ public relations officer **Danielle Bouw**

“There are only a few apps that will get into those top charts and generate revenues. Don’t quit your day job.”
–**Matt Coombe**, co-founder of the Toronto-based app development company **Get Set Games**



“I guess I just sleep a lot, maybe some Gatorade and Tylenol.”
–Rachel Roth
third-year, general arts



“I don’t think there is any real hangover cure. If there was, somebody would be making a lot of money off of it already.”
– Spencer Kelly
fourth-year, philosophy

Compiled by **Ashley Denuzzo**
Photos by **Ryan Hueglin**

WILDLIFE

Next week is all about us!

So keep an eye out for the next issue of Blueprint

“Your magazine Your Blueprint”

blueprint

CLARIFICATION

In the Feb. 26 article “Archaeology: a form of grave robbing”, the author, Cate Racher would like to clarify the stance she made in the article. She stated, “I was trying to make a case that archaeology, as it is used to promote tourist dollars in Mexico, could learn a few things from the sensitivity with which we treat burial sites here in Canada. Instead, the article reads like I am tarring all archaeologists with the grave-robber brush. I grew up among archaeologists in Canada and have seen nothing but excellence from the community here— and the archaeology department at WLU in particular.”

THE CORD

The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

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The Cord is the official student newspaper of the Wilfrid Laurier University community.

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Preamble to The Cord constitution

The Cord will keep faith with its readers by presenting news and expressions of opinions comprehensively, accurately and fairly. The Cord believes in a balanced and impartial presentation of all relevant facts in a news report, and of all substantial opinions in a matter of controversy.

The staff of The Cord shall uphold all commonly held ethical conventions of journalism. When an error of omission or of commission has occurred, that error shall be acknowledged promptly. When statements are made that are critical of an individual, or an organization, we shall give those affected the opportunity to reply at the earliest time possible. Ethical journalism requires impartiality, and consequently conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest will be avoided by all staff.

The only limits of any newspaper are those of the world around it, and so The Cord will attempt to cover its world with a special focus on Wilfrid Laurier University, and the community of Kitchener-Waterloo, and with a special ear to the concerns of the students of Wilfrid Laurier University. Ultimately, The Cord will be bound by neither philosophy nor geography in its mandate.

The Cord has an obligation to foster freedom of the press and freedom of speech. This obligation is best fulfilled when debate and dissent are encouraged, both in the internal workings of the paper, and through The Cord’s contact with the student body.

The Cord will always attempt to do what is right, with fear of neither repercussions, nor retaliation. The purpose of the student press is to act as an agent of social awareness, and so shall conduct the affairs of our newspaper.

Quote of the week:
“People are great. Why do we have wars?”
– Campus News Editor Marissa Evans re: seeing cookie shots on the Internet

UW prof reflects on conflict in Ukraine

John Jaworsky is a political science professor and member of the local Ukranian-Canadian community

DAINA GOLDFINGER
STAFF WRITER

Heated protests, chaos in Kyiv, the fall of one government and the rapid emergence of another—these are the images presented to the world of Ukraine today.

But for John Jaworsky, a professor of political science at the University of Waterloo, the conflict hits closer to home.

An avid member of Kitchener-Waterloo’s Ukranian community, Jaworsky offered up his professional opinion and insight on the recent conflicts overseas.

“[Vladimir] Putin, seems to be looking for an excuse to give Ukrainians a lesson, to show he is unhappy about the new government,” he said.

According to Jaworsky, the background of the crisis is quite complex.

Protests in Ukraine originally began in November in the capital of Kyiv when former president, Viktor Yanukovich, backtracked on signing an Association Agreement with the European Union.

The authority of President Yanukovich was increasingly undermined by growing evidence of massive government corruption. In January, the government introduced harsh anti-protest legislation.

“The president took a number of authoritarian steps which involved cutting back on human rights, the right of citizens to protest and media freedom,” Jaworsky said.

“This led to a radicalization of the protests.”

Then, Feb. 18-20 saw several dozen protesters killed, mostly by sniper fire.

In the aftermath of this violence an agreement between the government and the opposition collapsed, Yanukovich abandoned his post and fled Kyiv and a new government



WILL HUANG STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Canadian government announced that it will be imposing sanctions on some Ukranian officials.

began to form.

Now a new issue has emerged — Russian invasion.

Jaworsky says that Putin has declared the new government in Ukraine to be “illegitimate,” claiming that “extreme nationalists” back it.

He argues that Russian authority believes it has to intervene in Ukraine to protect the rights of the country’s ethnic Russian minority.

“Yanukovich was his man,” Jaworsky said. “Putin saw him as his person.”

Jaworsky thinks that a large-scale military conflict between Russia and Ukraine is unlikely, but there is a chance that a minor incident could trigger bloodshed.

“I’m not saying that Putin is planning or hoping for war, but the Russian troops in Crimea are looking for a reason to be there, and some of

their activities have been very provocative,” stated Jaworsky.

He is optimistic that Ukraine’s new government will achieve some success under the right conditions.

The new government is determined to combat corruption, a chronic problem in Ukraine, and is prepared to act in a more democratic fashion than the previous Yanukovich government.

Yuliya Chervona, a political

“I’m not saying Putin is planning ... for war, but the Russian troops in Crimea are looking for a reason to be there.”

—John Jaworsky, professor of political science at the University of Waterloo

science student at Wilfrid Laurier University and former president of the Laurier Ukranian Club also weighed in. “The international community needs to play a larger role in ending the conflict,” she said.

“The Canadian government should be applauded for its proactive role. It has placed sanctions on high-ranking officials in Ukraine, as well as expelling Russian military personnel from Canada.”

She continued to share that despite possible resolutions, citizens in Ukraine are still uncertain about their future.

Chervona has family who are currently living under these conditions.

“As someone who has family in Ukraine, it is terrifying. Having talked to family who still lives there, they do not know day-to-day if a war is going to break out,” she said.

“People are pulling their money out of the bank and preparing for the worst.”



JOSHUA AWOLADE GRAPHICS ARTIST

Early classes well-attended

BRYAN STEPHENS
LEAD REPORTER

James Moore understands the challenges of getting up for early classes—he taught Wilfrid Laurier University’s first ever 7:00 a.m. classes in the fall semester, mandatory for first-year students as a result of a double cohort situation.

Moore is an associate professor of accounting at Laurier and taught Introduction to Financial Accounting, or BU 127, in both the fall and winter terms. He sympathizes with students’ dislike of the early time.

“As someone who taught that class at that time of the day, I didn’t particularly like it very much. And I know my students didn’t like it very much either,” said Moore.

“It is an unfortunate reality these days that universities are strapped in terms of the space they have, versus the amount of students who need that space. I hope it won’t have to happen too often in the future though.”

To ensure that students would attend the early morning classes, Moore said he used surprise pop quizzes as incentive. The effort seemed to work.

“You could only write the quiz in the section you were registered in. We had to do this for population control, to ensure we had the right amount of bodies in classes. Once you put that regiment in place, students have a reason for showing up to class. That kind of forced everyone to attend class,” said Moore.

BU 127 was originally a

“I hope they understand we take their concerns over the time of classes very seriously.”

—James Moore, associate professor of accounting at Wilfrid Laurier University

second-year business course under the code BU 227, but following a move to better prepare students for co-op in second year the course was introduced at the 100-level.

“The decision for these changes is coming from input we have received for the need to better equip our students earlier on so that when they are applying for co-op positions in second year, employers can see they are prepared for the position,” said Kim Morouney, the associate dean of business: academic programs at Laurier.

The course was originally

proposed in two time slots for additional sections: an early morning weekday time and a Saturday option.

Because of the lack of interest in the Saturday proposal, it was dropped and students then could either register for the 7:00 a.m. class or other timeslots for other sections of the course.

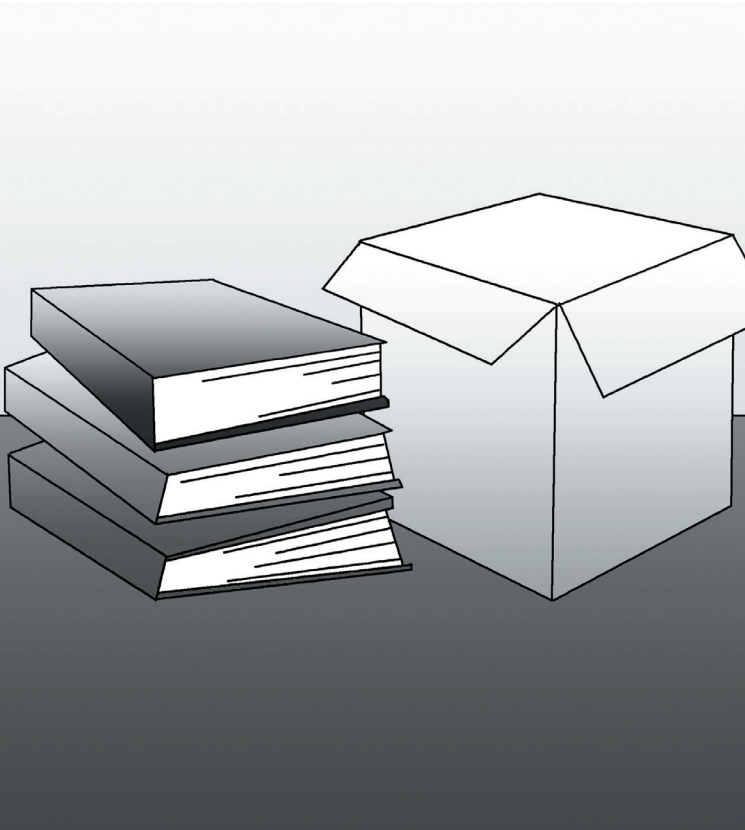
“We found students preferred to register in the 7:00 a.m. classes, and very few registered in the Saturday ones. Because of low numbers we decided to just drop the Saturday time slot completely,” said Morouney.

While incentives were used to promote attendance, Moore still wants students to understand offering 7:00 a.m. classes was done out of necessity.

“I hope our students understand why we had to have these classes at this time of the day, that it was essentially a space constraint. I hope they understand we take their concerns over the time of classes very seriously, but we are under constraints we must operate under.”

Morouney also pointed out that no students had come forward to complain about the early starting times of the classes. She did, however, want to commend the students on their attendance in class.

“It shows the commitment and dedication of students going and performing strongly in classes that this was done out of necessity. They buckled down and got the work done, and the fact is we have not had a lot of complaints.”



JESSICA MITRA GRAPHICS ARTIST

Initiative sends books to Africa

BRYAN STEPHENS
LEAD REPORTER

As part of a new initiative being brought to the university, students at Wilfrid Laurier University are being asked to donate their old textbooks with the potential of helping fill shelves in African universities and libraries.

The initiative is called Textbooks for Change, which recently partnered up with the Laurier Glassco Foundation and Shinerama chapter. Founded by recent University of Western Ontario (UWO) graduate, Chris Janssen, the approach to the program is to collect used textbooks from students, 50 per cent of which are aimed to be donated to universities and libraries in Africa, and the other 50 per cent being either resold or recycled within Canada.

"I saw old textbooks collecting dust, so I grabbed a few of those and sold them back to first-year students and used the proceeds to fund a few causes I was a part of at the time," said Janssen. "We then went back to the drawing board saying 'we made this impact, how big can it be if we try and scale it?'"

Starting up last year, Textbooks for Change is currently operating out of UWO, Wilfrid Laurier University, and Fanshawe College, with plans to be in Niagara College, Brock University and the University of Waterloo within the year.

They have also partnered with the Goodwill London chapter who will be helping with the sorting of the textbooks.

"We are still just starting up. We wanted to start at the roots, so that's why we decided to go right to Laurier with its history in Shinerama."

Olivia Montgomery, this year's Shinerama coordinator, said that working with Textbooks for Change has so far been a positive experience.

"They want it to be a big initiative across Shinerama and the thinking was Laurier would be a great starting point for that because of how involved we are with Shinerama," said Montgomery.

Stephanie Scicluna, president of the Laurier Glassco Foundation, said she was approached directly by Janssen as a campus partner to help promote the service.

"They were looking to spread across Canada at different universities. The thought was it would be a

"No matter what happens with the textbooks, a positive thing comes from it."

—Chris Janssen, founder of Textbooks for Change

good opportunity to get into Laurier through us," said Scicluna.

The on-campus partners will be working with Textbooks for Change by collecting the books at the university, which will then be brought back to London to be looked through and organized according to their designated destination to be shipped out.

Janssen said the process of picking what books go to Africa is determined by the employees at the Goodwill London chapter, who will also determine which ones are to be recycled and resold.

"We go through the books, if it is kind of old and tattered and can't be used, then the books will usually be recycled. It's kind of on a price threshold if they determine whether it gets sent to Africa, or if they do get resold. Even if it is an old edition, they can still find a great use for it there," said Janssen.

Janssen said the inspiration for the initiative came from his experience travelling to Africa.

"I went to Africa for four months and looking at the bare shelves in their libraries I realized something had to be done. They simply don't have access to these materials over there. It's a tremendous impact on their education we can make doing a service like this."

Montgomery believes the service is a great initiative.

"No matter what happens with the textbooks, a positive thing comes from it. So if they can be sold online, that's great, and profits get to go back to Glassco and Shinerama. If they don't sell, they can be donated to universities in Africa, which is also amazing. No matter what, a positive thing comes out of it."

Out in the elements

Mar. 9-13 is WLU's annual '5 Days for the Homeless' campaign

VIRGINIA TREMAINE
STAFF WRITER

For the seventh consecutive year, participants of 5 Days for the Homeless have been taking a week out of their normal university lives and sleeping outdoors on Wilfrid Laurier University's Waterloo campus in order to raise money and awareness for youth homelessness.

This year, the campaign is running Mar. 9-13.

"We hope to raise \$15,000 this year and we are doing really well so far," said Danielle Bouw, public relations director for the event.

5 Days for the Homeless, which is run by the School of Business and Economics Students' Society, met their \$15,000 goal last year and donated the money to the same two local youth shelters that they donate to every year: Reaching Our Outdoor Friends (ROOF) and Argus Residence for Young People.

"These two amazing organizations actually help rehabilitate homeless youth so that they are able to get jobs and get back on their feet," explained second-year kinesiology student, Megan McBride, who

is sleeping outside this week in support of the campaign. "And the more awareness and donations we can get means more people who are going to be able to get back on track and help prevent homelessness."

Not everyone on campus agrees with this event's methods of raising awareness, however, and some argue that their outdoor camp does not accurately represent homelessness.

"We aren't trying to pretend that after a week of camping outside that we know what it's like to be homeless," said Bouw. "But seeing these participants out in the cold ... right here in front of the FNCC [Fred Nichols Campus Centre] where so many students walk by each day can remind them that there are people actually living outside who need [support]."

Bouw and the other participants involved in 5 Days for the Homeless are aware of the stigma on campus that simulating homelessness is making light of the reality of some people's situations, but insist that the visual is key in promoting awareness for their cause.

According to Bouw, they

encourage anyone with questions about what they are doing to approach the participants.

"We've had people come up to us and ask us before why we are pretending to be homeless, and as soon as we explain it to them we find they understand it a lot better and sometimes even come back with a coffee to help get us through," said 5 Days participant and fourth-year bachelor of business administration (BBA) student, Jeff Lei.

While class is mandatory for the students participating, most of their student luxuries are prohibited during their camp outside: no electronics are allowed, any food they eat must be donated to them, only public bathrooms may be used and all monetary donations are given to ROOF and Argus.

"This experience really puts my life into perspective," shared Lei about the event so far. "I've wanted to participate in this since first year. It was kind of on my university bucket list and I'm really glad that I did this, because it makes you appreciate what you've got and makes you think a bit more about what other people don't have."

Ward shares life story

LENA YANG
GRAPHICS EDITOR

Renée Ward is no stranger to Wilfrid Laurier University.

She graduated from the university in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in English and Canadian studies and then returned several years later to pursue a master's degree in English. In September 2009, she began her professional career at Laurier as an English professor.

Much of her life outside of academia entwines with her career; as a child who discovered a passion for reading, her love for literature went on to play a very significant role in her life and led her down the path that she is currently on.

Leaving behind the picturesque landscape of her English home at a young age, Ward is very much a blend of the English and the Canadian.

"I spent most of my life as a hybrid creature," she explained. "My mom is Canadian, so I have a Canadian mother and an English father. My dad's family was all in England and my mom's family was all in Canada and the U.S."

Very early in her life, Ward's parents decided to immigrate to Canada for two reasons: one, to spend more time with her mother's family, and two, for educational opportunities.

Ward began her academic career at Wilfrid Laurier University in 1992. She has an extensive history with WLU Student Publications (WLUSP), having worked for The Cord as classifieds co-ordinator and then moving up to production manager the following year.

"I came to do English and I knew that I wanted to do stuff with writing, and that I was interested in publications. The years that I was a Cordie, I was also involved as a member of the exec with the move towards WLUSP becoming



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ward on a trip to the Bury Ditches in Shropshire, England.

an autonomous agency," she reminisced.

Quite unsurprisingly, literature has been a very prominent part of Ward's life.

"It was something that I really just loved and I was an only child, so for me reading was huge as a kid," she said. "If you look at my family photo albums, every family gathering we have, I'm the person that is missing because I'm in the other room with my face stuck in a book."

When asked about her favourite books, her response befitted that of a passionate reader: sighing with great frustration, before finally settling on a well-thought-out list.

"Tolkien: *The Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings*, definitely," she began. "And then I would have to say Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Richard Adams's *Water-ship Down*. That book just, as a child

reader, the first time I read it was the most painful things I've ever had to read. I couldn't put it down, and I cried, and cried, and cried. I would say the other one would be *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell."

Ward is currently teaching a medieval studies course on Harry Potter and her research involves topics within fantasy, science fiction and medievalism.

As someone whose interests lie so much in the fantastical, then, it was all too fitting to inquire which mythical creature she would most like to bring to life.

"Dragons," she said without much hesitation. "Absolutely, dragons. I'm not sure which breed, maybe not the Hungarian Horntail. But yeah, I think dragons. They're formidable."

"I'm a nerd," she concluded. "But you already knew that."



RYAN HUEGLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Students ran booths representing different programs within the faculty of arts in the first ever Arts in Action event held last Thursday.

Awareness brought to arts

Faculty-wide event, Arts in Action, was held last Thursday to bring focus on arts

KATE TURNER
VISUAL DIRECTOR

Stereotypes are inherent within any faculty and have the ability to make students feel undervalued. But one professor is seeking to change the negative perception of the arts through awareness and appreciation.

Last Thursday, Wilfrid Laurier University hosted the first ever Arts in Action event, organized by English professor Maria DiCenzo and assisted by the Council for the Intellectual and Cultural Development of the Arts (CICDA).

“The idea came from talking to students ... they were impressed with my optimism for the arts. I responded that I was impressed with their degree of engagement with the arts, so I said I think we need to go public with our enthusiasm,” explained DiCenzo.

Panelists, including Laurier alumni, faculty and community professionals, discussed the value of the arts in the workforce, while booths promoted services and clubs

available to students through the faculty of arts.

Christina Shirley, a Laurier student, stood at the English and film studies booth, advocating for the department and faculty as a whole.

“Arts students tend to be told by outside people that the arts are kind of useless and that you’re not going to get a real job ... It’s really important to fight that stereotype and show people that’s not all that we do in the arts,” she said.

Acknowledging and defeating stereotypes associated with arts degrees was the central message of the day. DiCenzo wished to show students, both within and outside the faculty, that arts are valuable for many reasons.

CICDA president Thomas Ebeyer endorsed her mission.

“The knowledge is important, but for me especially I see it’s the transferable skills,” he explained.

“The ability to critically think, to form your own opinions, the ability to engage with issues, the ability to understand complex theories and sort of make sense of the abstract in

terms of practical living experience.”

Panelists throughout the day reaffirmed the idea that these transferable skills are vital in any field — whether it be business, science or the arts.

Many even earned degrees in both arts and business, proving that in reality the two faculties are not rivals, but partners.

“I think we’re just influenced too much by these very misleading perceptions from the media. Parents are afraid their children won’t get jobs if they’re in the arts,” DiCenzo said.

This was the first time for the event, but hopefully not the last. DiCenzo hopes to continue helping students make informed choices about their future.

“It’s an opportunity for students to find out about courses, options, about the services that are here — the writing center, the library, career services. It’s kind of a one-stop shop and a great day to take advantage of. Especially the beginning of March, when students will soon be making choices about courses in the next

number of weeks. So maybe we can make this more of a regular thing,” she continued.

Though student involvement was not as strong as DiCenzo and Ebeyer would have liked, the event was well-received by those watching. Third-year English major Sarah Mathews found the event to be “profoundly valuable,” as she has experienced the stereotypes they wished to combat.

“When I describe that I’m in literature, I don’t want my nose to be pointing at the ground because people think I don’t have anything valuable to say as a result of what I study. And I think part of what that event would advocate is that my value is equal to someone in economics, even though we don’t study the same concepts,” Mathews said.

“What you study is not necessarily a reflection of what you can accomplish. I think that’s what the event would more or less come to involve the arts students with ... the perception that I didn’t choose English because I was too stupid for another subject. I chose a passion.”

Student awards on track

MARISSA EVANS
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

As of this week, approximately 95 per cent of the awards from the student awards office have been processed and the results released to students.

Last year, when students were notified that the results would not be released until March — instead of the usual early February release time — it was termed a delay. However, this year Ruth MacNeil, acting university registrar, believes they are “in really good shape.”

“Obviously we’re still fine-tuning the system, because our goal is actually to have all of our awards dispersed by the end of January,” she said. “So we’re within targets, but we still have a little bit of work to do to clean it up. But we’re in much better shape this year than last year.”

The delay last year was due to the fact that a new system was being implemented. As part of this, 600 awards needed to be built from scratch.

This year, however, there were only 40 new opportunities that needed to be built.

By next year, MacNeil anticipates they will be able to hit their January target.

The new system means that students no longer have to search for awards that they may be eligible for. Instead, they fill out a general student profile and a faculty-specific profile that then allows them to be automatically matched to awards they are eligible for.

“So it benefits in two ways. It benefits the students because they don’t have to go searching for things. And on our side we only pull those students who are actually eligible to be considered for an opportunity,” MacNeil explained.

This means the process is more efficient since the awards office doesn’t have to consider applications that students submitted to awards that they are not actually eligible for.

The efficiency of this new system will be partly responsible for their ability to get results out to students by January.

“Getting used to the system is always a big thing, because it was such a radical change for us,” she said. “But as we fine-tune it and we see further opportunities to develop to make it a better system then obviously it’s going to help our processes as well.”

While students weren’t notified that the results would be released a little later again this year, MacNeil said students are able to stay updated on Loris. For example, students are able to see when they are being considered as candidates for a given award.

According to MacNeil, the amount of students who have filled out profiles does have some impact on when results are able to be released. While the new system makes this easier, they still have to read through the top 20 or 25 applications to make final recommendations.

Last year saw an influx in students; however, this year’s intake was relatively the same.

In terms of making improvements for next year, MacNeil said there are two aspects they are going to be focusing on.

“Fine-tuning the application process, so we can be more efficient in getting the funding out into students’ hands. And education of the student body so we get more students applying for financial aid.”

MacNeil expects all awards to have completed the process over the next two weeks.

Undergrad journal selects content

KAITLYN SEVERIN
STAFF WRITER

As the publication date for the first issue of the Laurier Undergraduate Journal of the Arts (LUJA) approaches, members have been working to gather content that will showcase the work of students from the faculty of arts.

So far, nine pieces have been selected and will appear in the journal at the end of April. This was out of the 130 pieces submitted by applicants for consideration.

Kevin Gerlach, chairman and founder of LUJA, said that competition was very fierce and board members of the journal had to make sure the application process was fair.

“We wanted to make certain that the process was fair to everyone who submitted and at the same time that it represented the best of the best,” said Gerlach about the applications.

Students had until Jan. 31 to submit their work to the LUJA office in order to be accepted into the journal.

Members of the board placed a standard on applicants that they must have received a minimum of an 80 per cent grade in any class from the faculty of arts to submit their work. This was to ensure they received the best quality.

“We made certain that in keeping

the minimum at 80 per cent as opposed to raising it any higher that people from all grades got their voice in and we allowed multiple people to submit multiple papers,” Gerlach explained.

The work submitted to the journal was divided up between editors based on relevant expertise.

Editors with philosophy backgrounds edited philosophy papers, anthropology students edited anthropology papers, and so on. Each editor received ten to 15 papers to look through, of which they selected two to be submitted to board members for a final vote.

Gerlach explained that they were looking for between eight and 15 papers for the publication, depending on their length.

“There are printing costs to worry about,” Gerlach said of the reason for the low number of pieces selected to go to publication. “We’re printing through The Hub, not through Laurier Press. We wanted to print

through the student organization.”

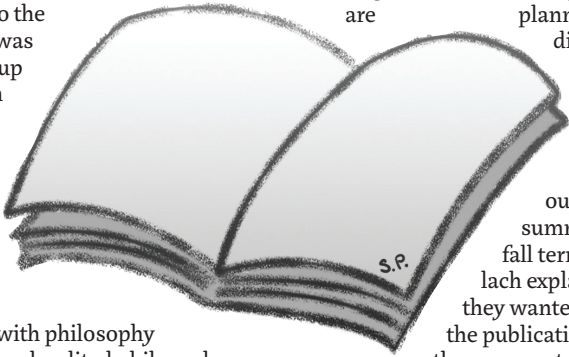
Currently, the journal is in the midst of the editing process, which involves revising and editing articles to be put in a journalistic format.

While the annual publication is coming out at the end of April, they are planning on distributing it throughout both the summer and fall terms. Gerlach explained that they wanted to have the publication out for the summer term to see how interested students are in reading the journal.

“Our goal is to make certain that students have it in their hands by the beginning of next term. That’s when we want to see our major distribution go out.”

The members of LUJA are hoping people from other universities hear about the journal and learn more about Laurier. Depending on the initial distribution, the journal may publish online as a way for students at other universities to access it.

“It’s been going very well,” Gerlach said. “We’re very happy with



“We wanted to make certain that the process was fair to everyone who submitted.”

—Kevin Gerlach, chairman and founder of LUJA

how this has turned out.”

He hopes it will impact first-year students and show current Laurier students how to get involved in the arts along with other clubs and organizations.

“There are so many good clubs and societies in arts on campus and I’m hoping when people see the journal it’s just one more example and it shows people how to get involved.”

LOCAL

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ION critic speaks out

CONNOR WARD
STAFF WRITER

With one week to go before the March 19 regional council meeting that will likely confirm GrandLinq as the builder and operator of Light Rail Transit, doubts still exist concerning the future of the project.

A Waterloo-based citizens' group concerned with the very existence of the LRT project, Stop Light Rail, has called for the review of the program before council signs contracts to begin construction.

Jay Aissa, owner of a local fencing company, is the man behind Stop Light Rail. Aissa explained that his frustration with LRT started when he went to the Region to discuss how the tracks will affect his work trucks from getting in and out of his business. Aissa then decided to look further into the LRT project, and found issues with both the logic behind LRT in general, and the project's financing.

"As I started digging into it, I realized this was more than my problem — this is the Region's problem. We're going to go borrow all this money for something we may not need," said Aissa.

For instance, Stop Light Rail has

questioned the projections that LRT is based upon, such as the assertion that the Region of Waterloo's population will rise to over 700,000 people by 2031. The group has also criticized the financial projections, claiming that the typical public light rail project is, on average, 40 per cent over budget.

Aissa's main argument is that the Region is basing its future projections for ridership on RIM, the struggling tech giant, being around. "We've lost our biggest employer in the area," said Aissa. "They're calculating everything based on RIM's former growth, and now that RIM is gone, the numbers are different."

The Region insists that the budget for the LRT project is under control and that projections have taken concerns about the future into consideration. With a March 5 meeting confirming the construction conglomerate GrandLinq as the top bidder to build the LRT and a March 19 meeting expected to finalize GrandLinq as the builder, the project is anticipated to keep on schedule.

"At this point we don't see the project going over budget," said Region of Waterloo CFO Craig Dyer. "Based on actions that council has taken to date, they have

every expectation that the LRT will proceed."

The group's main concern is the borrowing that must occur to build the region's LRT system. The Region has already factored in about \$105 million. Aissa is concerned about the possibility of going over budget and borrowing extra, which he believes will justify another tax increase.

"If they don't make the budget, all they are going to do is raise taxes," said Aissa. "They look at the funding as free money. This is not free money; this is from the taxpayer's pocket. Whether it's federal, provincial, regional, it's not free money."

The Region of Waterloo's LRT system is well on its way to being built. With final meetings occurring in the next few weeks to sign construction contracts, it is hard to imagine that the project will be halted.

"We should reach financial close by April, and from that point on then, we have a legally binding agreement with GrandLinq to build the system, and maintain it for 30 years," said Regional Councilor Tom Galloway. "It's a bit late in the process for people to be suggesting some changes."



RYAN HUGELIN FILE PHOTO

Some local businesses are concerned about the costs of LRT.

Women combat racism

AMY SMITH
CORD NEWS

Local Muslim women in Kitchener-Waterloo are working together to combat hate crimes in the area.

The Coalition of Muslim Women of K-W have developed a peer counselling service as part of their Hate Crime Intervention Project, which was launched in February.

The idea started in late 2012 when members of the coalition began hearing about incidents where Muslim women were targeted because of their religion.

One member had recently converted to the Islamic religion and began wearing the hijab. She was getting out of a taxi when the driver said "Don't go blowing us up now."

In order to spread awareness of this problem, the coalition has held two workshops to educate Muslim women and the community as a whole on tolerance, Muslim practices, and the lives of women in the community.

"The goal of the project is to spread awareness, education and empowerment to Muslim women and to build bridges in the community," said project co-ordinator, Sarah Shafiq.

They set up a helpline so that victims of hate crimes could contact.

The helpline is run by a group of volunteers who go out into the community to listen to callers as well as collect and document any hate crime incidents.

They also are available as service providers for victims who need help contacting the police or other organizations such as Victim Services and Community Justice Initiatives.

"For the short term it's until the end of the summer but we hope to continue it and hope to get more funding to expand it from not just in the Muslim community and not just for hate crimes but maybe for the larger community and catering to various other issues regarding hate



HEATHER DAVIDSON PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

The Coalition of Muslim Women of K-W launched a peer help line.

crimes," said Shafiq.

The coalition has also been working to help improve the experience of many Muslim immigrants in Canada who may not feel welcome.

These individuals may be subject to to discrimination or stereotypes from the larger community.

Shafiq explained that the emotional effect of these hate incidents do not only impact the victim, but they may also affect the family or friends of the individual.

Shafiq added that many volunteers at the coalition were once victims of hate crimes or prejudice.

"The volunteers who have joined the service talked about how they want this community to know them well and they want to make this a home and a home is a safe place," she added.

"They want to feel that they belong here."

Another aim of the project is to collect a report of the incidents.

According to Shafiq, many immigrant women do not report hate crime incidents because they don't believe they'll receive help.

The Coalition of Muslim Women in KW wants to reverse those stigmas.

Their goal is to keep momentum of the group going and to expand from not only the Muslim

“Canada is such a positive experience for everybody that they just want to make it better.”

—Sarah Shafiq, project coordinator at The Coalition of Muslim Women of K-W

community, but to the larger community as well.

Shafiq hopes to see changes arise as a result of the project.

"Canada is such a positive experience for everybody that they just want to make it better," she said.

"I hope within the Muslim community there will be a sense of confidence that something is being done."

Line 9 reversed

Advocacy groups oppose pipe decision

JORDAN SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The National Energy Board (NEB) has approved the second phase of the flow reversal of Enbridge's 38 year-old Line 9 pipeline, which passes through the Region.

The pipeline, which runs from Montréal to Sarnia, has been a source of debate locally and in the province.

The decision was precluded by months of public hearings.

The motion was approved Thursday. The pipeline would be carrying diluted bitumen, a mixture of heavy crude oil and natural gas.

"There was support and opposition on both sides and the opposition was quite vocal, which is fair," said Carole Léger-Kubeczek, communications officer for the NEB.

"People need to share their views," she said.

The pipeline crosses many ecologically-sensitive areas and numerous waterways.

These feed into Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, while also cutting across highly populated areas.

"It was deemed to be in the public interest to do so and the Board assessed all of the information that was gathered and tried to strike a balance between safety, environmental concerns and also financial efficiency," added Léger-Kubeczek.

However, members of local advocacy groups have been particularly vocal about their opposition to the decision.

"It was a very exclusive process in terms of how people were able to input feedback to them on the decision," said Rachel Avery of Waterloo Region Against Line 9.

"A lot of people weren't able to participate or intervene in the hearings or even send statements, so it's hard [for the NEB] to know what's in the public's best interest."

She continued, "It's what we see as a broader shift in the Harper government to make much more of the decisions in their executive capacity."

However the NEB explained that it was "a new method" to

participate in their hearings.

"This hearing was the first one trying out this new approach," Léger-Kubeczek said.

"We reviewed the information that was submitted on the record and not only the information for these particular proceedings, this reversal, but also we went as far back as when the pipeline was first approved in 1975."

Despite the assurances that all public concern was heard, some skepticism remains.

Avery contested that the NEB "disregarded pretty much all of the conditions that people were requesting."

She believes that they did not truly listen to any concerns coming from indigenous groups — namely about their property rights.

Environmental concerns arising from a fear of an oil spill were also prominent.

"They didn't request the proper hydrostatic testing for the pipeline so they aren't even assuring the basic safety principles of the pipeline" said Avery.

Enbridge plans to increase the amount of barrels that travel through the line per day, which would increase revenue.

Locally, however, there are low expectations of any economic benefits.

"I'm not aware that there are any economic spin offs," said regional chair Ken Seiling.

Avery added, "You have to think of what kind of jobs do we want [a] nd where we stand."

"The jobs we want are not going to put people in direct contact with hazardous materials such as diluted bitumen," he continued.

"They are going to be jobs that will build sustainable futures and building local solutions."

Line 9 won't start pumping immediately though.

"Bitumen is not going to be flowing for 30 to 90 days so there's still a bit of a window to intervene."

Avery is focussing more locally.

"Locally there is still a lot of awareness raising to do," notes an optimistic Avery.

Hopefuls seek place on city council

ASHLEY DENUZZO
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

For the upcoming City of Waterloo council election — set to occur in October — many new faces will be popping up on ballot sheets.

Most recently, Ward 2, currently held by long-time councillor Karen Scian, is up for grabs.

Ward 2 is bounded on the west and north by the city boundary, on the east by centre lines on Roy Schmidt Road and Beaver Creek Road, Laurelwood Drive, Fischer-Hallman Road, Columbia Street West, Erbsville Road and Ira Needles Boulevard.

It's also connected south by the centre line of Erb Street West.

Ward 2 has been frequently been referred to as Waterloo's fastest growing ward in the city.

It encompasses numerous subdivisions, schools, and developing neighbourhoods.

And for Helen Kaluzny, Janice Moore and Hardy Willms, the opportunity is too great to pass up.

The Cord spoke to the three councillor hopefuls and asked them to outline their life before election, platform and reasons why they stand out.

Helen Kaluzny
Helen Kaluzny has lived in Waterloo for 15 years — all of them in Ward 2.

"All of the things that I've done since we moved in Waterloo has been getting out and volunteering in the community," she said.

Kaluzny has been president of her neighbourhood's association, where she also sat on the umbrella association called the community council for a number of years.

Currently, Kaluzny resides on the board of the Waterloo Public Library.

"So for me this sort of seems like the next logical step," she said when asked about why she was running for council.

Some of her major platform points are traffic-related, namely the widening of Ira Needles.

"We have a large subdivision



JODY WAARDENBERG LEAD PHOTOGRAPHER

Three candidates have put their names in for the Ward 2 councillor position: Helen Kaluzny (L), Hardy Willms (M) and Janice Moore (R).

going on there and I really want to make sure that all of those issues are addressed at city council."

What separates Kaluzny from her competitors is a journalistic perspective; she had previously worked for Rogers television and also holds a degree in broadcast journalism for Mohawk College.

"Having been a journalist, I have been around politics for a huge chunk of my career," she said.

"You see a sense of things that are done and where people make mistakes."

Janice Moore
For Janice Moore, a retired chartered accountant, the prospect of being in a chaired position is not something new.

Currently the president of the Kitchener-Waterloo Diving Club, Moore also served as the president of Dive Ontario for a number of

years.

For her, she sees a connection between recreation and leisure and its utmost importance to the community.

"I want to continue that work," she said. "I think [rec and leisure] needs to have involvement from council, staff and citizens all working together."

"I want to see that communication in the whole city."

A large item that Moore wants to convey in her platform is the emphasis to expand Waterloo's arts, culture and sports.

She wants to make sure that locals experience the great variety available in the city.

"I'd also really like to see more students stay here," she said. "I feel like a lot of students go away when we have great post-secondary programs here."

Looking ahead to a summer filled

with lots of campaigning, Moore has no problem going door-to-door and introducing herself to the community.

Her biggest asset?

"I listen," she said. "I'm really looking forward to doing that in council."

Hardy Willms
Life-long resident of Waterloo, Hardy Willms has a skill that would definitely be of use in city council — finance.

Willms currently works as an international finance director for a local distribution company and wants to bring his expertise to city council.

He also sits on the board for Waterloo Minor Hockey and has been the chairman for Parkwood Mennonite Homes for a total of eight years.

"I want to make sure that we have a strong voice at city hall for all of the changes that are going to

be happening," he said. "Currently when I look at the current council there doesn't seem to be anybody there with financial backgrounds."

Willms told The Cord that the city has been increasing local taxes at a rate that surpasses the cost of inflation.

"And that just isn't sustainable," he said.

Willms would like Waterloo to become more focused on its finances, namely budgeting.

He explained that increased taxes inevitably affect students in the area, as landlords will have to increase rent prices if they are subject housing and property taxes.

"Just understanding how the government works, I think my financial background would be important," he said.

"I know how finance work and I know where we can look for savings."

Charity falls short

CAROLINE LI
CORD NEWS

Outreach for helping the Kitchener-Waterloo community may face challenges this year, as the United Way KW has raised about \$400,000 less than anticipated through their annual fundraising drive.

They fell short of their \$5.1 million fundraising goal for 2013.

"We knew it wasn't a stretch goal, we knew it would be challenging to hit, but we certainly thought we had a big chance to do it," said Peter Thurley, a representative of United Way KW "We really worked hard to hit it, [so] we don't feel that the goal was unrealistic."

The organization is currently gathering information so that they can make decisions on how to improve and to see what the reasons were for the shortcoming.

"Whether it was internal reasons or whether there were external pressures, [the United Way] didn't know about," Thurley added.

The United Way tackles local issues such as poverty, child and youth health and the well-being of families.

While the unmet fundraising goal may appear to reflect a lack of philanthropy manifesting in the Region, Dianne Boston-Nyp, from the Volunteer Action Centre Waterloo (VAC), hasn't seen a decrease in engagement.

"What we are seeing is a younger population of volunteers and they like to volunteer in ways different from the traditional volunteering

that we have seen in the past," Boston-Nyp said. "[We] are not seeing a decline, but just seeing a change."

Boston-Nyp describes the centre as "the chamber of commerce for the non-profit sector," collecting information for people looking for organizations, while acting as an outlet for the organizations to reach out to the right demographic.

She has found that some individuals don't consider themselves a "volunteer" despite their involvement with local events.

"There are people that fundraise, people that create events — there are a lot of grey areas in the volunteer sector that people who may or may not consider themselves volunteers," she said.

In terms of whether the United Way KW shortcoming is an indicator of volunteerism on the decline, Boston-Nyp disagreed.

"[There is] nothing different or drastic, but we are having to change the way we do things and because of the economy, and because there are more conveniences with Internet and social media a lot of things can be done in micro-minutes and at home compared to making an event and virtual volunteering," she said.

Thurley also agreed that the shortfall does not serve as an indicator of a decline in volunteerism.

"We had a very active volunteer base and a couple of events over the past couple of months," he told The Cord. "We expect that there will be a significant number of volunteers out, so we haven't seen anything in that front."



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NATIONAL

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Apps face tough market

ASHLEY DENUZZO
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

86 per cent of time on smartphones is spent using apps, which may have entrepreneurs thinking that the industry is still booming.

However, according to professionals, mobile apps and game development isn't as lucrative as one might assume.

In fact, some might say that the app bandwagon has an uncertain future.

"The gold rush is over," said Matt Coombe, co-founder of the Toronto-based app development company Get Set Games. "The day where it was relatively easy to get an app out there, get downloads and make some revenue are gone."

"It's a lot harder to both make a successful app and make money off of it."

With more than one million registered apps available on the iPhone's App Store and Android's Google Play, competition is high and it can be a challenge for developers to stay relevant in today's market.

Apps which have attained high levels of commercial success such as WhatsApp, Flappy Bird and Candy Crush are a rare occurrence, according to Coombe. He explained a majority of apps today will actually lose money upon their launch.

"There are only a few apps that will get into those top charts and

"It's a lot harder to both make a successful app and make money off of it."

—Matt Coombe, co-founder of Get Set Games

generate revenues," he said. "Don't quit your day job."

According to Coombe, five years ago the industry was both alluring and profitable because it was extremely new.

Now, with an extremely competitive market, apps that are able to flourish are the ones with either tactful marketing schemes, lots of advertising opportunities, million dollar investments or — in the recent case of Flappy Bird — pure luck.

And according to Catherine Middleton, a professor at the Ted Rogers School of Management at Ryerson University, there are limited ways for apps to make money.

"There are apps that are free that don't have any mechanisms for you to purchase things, but they generate revenue from advertising," she said.

Middleton, whose research largely focuses on the development of new communication technologies, explained that many free mobile

applications also come with premium upgrades, add-ons and other versions, which users have to pay for.

"I think a good example would be the Angry Birds franchise," she said. "They have found a number of ways to roll out new versions."

Coombe says that only about five per cent of users of free apps actually purchase these upgrades and add-ons. However, whether these additional costs are profitable depends entirely upon how many downloads there are.

"Once you have a million people playing there's a lot of ways to generate revenue," he said. "Because it's a low amount of players who will actually give you money."

For non-game mobile apps, a lot of revenue will come from subscriptions or in many cases a larger buyer.

In the case of WhatsApp, an instant messaging system available for all Smartphone platforms, Facebook purchased it recently for a



JACOB LINDGREN GRAPHICS ARTIST

staggering \$19 billion.

Instagram, similarly, was bought in 2012 for \$1 billion.

Regardless, mobile apps undoubtedly have the potential to bring in cash — it's just extremely risky.

To avoid disappointment, founder of Teak Mobile, Christina Moulton, says app developers need to think of their product as a business rather than just a single app.

"If you want to be a hobbyist and throw together a to-do app and make a couple of grand, that market is pretty much gone," she said. "But there certainly are markets out there

that you can still have an app or two and keep a small company together and make money [...] you just have to think of it as more of a business."

Coombe also emphasized that apps need to follow consumer trends. For him, it's the only way to stay relevant.

"We have to continually evolve," he said "The market is changing, expectations are changing and devices are changing."

To the young burgeoning entrepreneur, Coombe says,

"If you want a chance then literally just start doing it, don't talk about it. Do it."

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Venezuela turmoil
Citizens enter a time of social uncertainty

REBECCA ANANDA
THE RYERSONIAN

TORONTO (CUP) — It's 8 a.m., Feb. 20, and Oscar Navas is starting his morning as an intern at the Dr. Luis Razetti Hospital in Barcelona, Venezuela. Students are on the streets protesting and setting up barricades nearby in coastal city Lecheria.

Venezuelan students have been marching in the streets across the country as protests reignited in early February. Although student involvement in the protests is being highlighted, much of Venezuela's population is lashing out. This is not just a student issue.

Crime and violence within Venezuela have played key roles in fuelling the protests. Last year, an estimated 24,763 people were murdered in the country, according to the Venezuelan Violence Observatory (Observatorio Venezolano de Violencia), a non-governmental organization.

"I would like to live in a Venezuela where I walk the streets without feeling fear," said Navas, a student at Universidad de Oriente in Venezuela.

The teenagers under Navas' care are not the only casualties of police bullets. These young men survived. The official death toll currently stands at 21 killed during protests, according to Amnesty International.

A local radio station calls Navas to gather information about casualties from the morning's round of protests. The radio station, Unión Radio Noticias, puts Navas live on-air where he tells the audience about the wounds and injuries of the people he sees.

"The police forces were chasing me because I said to a radio station what was happening in hospital, things that were happening at that moment, and that's not fair," Navas said.

Navas goes into hiding where he stays, safe, for 48 hours.

"My conscience didn't allow me

to stay there," said Navas.

Venezuela is ruled by the left-wing government of Nicolás Maduro and his United Socialist Party, which was founded by former president and socialist strong-man Hugo Chavez. Chaves died just over a year ago, on March 5, 2013.

Though Venezuela has its share of social issues, the political arena is far from black and white. In a country of deep economic divisions, the political interests of Venezuela's rich and poor have long been at odds.

University of Toronto Latin American studies lecturer, Juan Marsiaj, says the situation is not that simple.

"How much of [what's going on] is because of the economic interests of the elite in destabilizing the country?" he questioned.

"These claims of tyrannical dictatorship, to repression of the democratic desires of the mass of the population, which is often what you get from a cursory reading in the media."

Imperialist powers subtly pulling political strings have characterized the history of Latin America since Europeans landed on the continent centuries ago, Marsiaj points out. The result is a confusing mix of political actors, motivations, power plays and intrigue. This seems to have little effect on the day-to-day reality of the student protesters who are marching, and in some cases, dying in Venezuela's streets.

"I want and I dream of a Venezuela where the people that think differently than those who have the power don't fear," says Navas. But he's already paying a price for that dream.

Despite the risks and the fact that he's on the police's radar as a troublemaker and organizer, Navas is committed to the process he has helped begin.

"That's why I fight, because now we have two options," he says.

"Because we are not going to settle."

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Sincerely,
Passive Aggressive

Dear Life,
I miss Laurier. I would literally give anything to turn the clock back and do it all again. I miss my friends, the wild parties, and hell, even the classes. I hate life and my shitty job.

Make the most of every second you have left at this unreal school before the real world swallows you up.
Sincerely,
2013 Grad

Dear Life,
I'm glad we stopped talking since it saved me the trouble of having to pretend that I liked your hair cut, which in fact makes you look like a member of the hitler youth.
Sincerely,
tschüss deutschbag

Dear Life,
Have you missed me? Seems Spotted at Laurier gets all the action now.
Sincerely,
Read Print Media!

Dear Life,
If the bathrooms on campus could have soap in them, I'd really appreciate it.
Sincerely,
No Finger Food For Me

Dear Life,
This year's St Paddy's Day tent will hold 2,500 people — last year 7,000

people attended the Ezra St event — how is this going to solve the problem at all? Aren't you simply creating two party venues?
Sincerely,
The Numbers Don't Add Up

Dear Life,
Do I keep searching for the impossible (to find) girl, or start anew with the girl who's waiting? If only I still had that damned, metal dog to help me decide.
Sincerely,
Would you like a jellybaby?

Dear Life,
If you're still thinking about someone three years later, and you've never really had a romantic relationship with them, is it love? He's not even that cute!
Sincerely,
Confused

Dear Cristina Almudevar and Alanna Fairey,
I really hope that either of you are single.
Sincerely,
You're both too hot for me to choose

just one

Dear WLUSU,
Applicants should be hired based on their qualifications, not because they're buddy-buddy with the person conducting the interview. This "bias-free" system is the most biased system I've ever encountered.
Sincerely,
Frustrated student.

Dear Life,
It's crazy how fast a volunteering service can become your family. Volunteering at The Cord every Tuesday night was at first something I did to fill my schedule. It then became something I looked forward to every week. Now it is something that I can't live without. I'm not leaving The Cord this year, but so many are. To those graduating this April just know that this place will always be your home away from home and we will always be your family. And to those interested in volunteering for The Cord, do it. It will honestly be the best decision you will ever make.
Sincerely,
The Cord will never be the same without you guys.

Dear I would like a jellybaby,
Please meet me outside the elevator on the 1st floor of Bricker Academic

on Thursday, March 20th, 2014 at noon. Reply in that week's Dear Life if you are unable to attend.
Sincerely
Would you like a jellybaby?

Dear Life,
I am absolutely appalled by Health Services at Laurier. I have never met a set of doctors that are so miserable. I seriously question their competence seeing as they diagnosed me with the flu one day and twenty-four hours later I ended up in the hospital with what turned out to be a severe case of mono. I understand that they are extremely busy, but the lack of bedside manner and general dismissiveness of the doctors is unacceptable. Also, giving me a handout that describes the signs and symptoms of what you THINK I have doesn't do anything for me.
Sincerely,
An extremely frustrated Golden Hawk

Dear Life,
What if sometimes the same person is posting multiple dear lifes' for the same week? How do you keep track that one person doesn't make multiple entries since the page is anonymous??
Sincerely,
Probably not the case, but still curious

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FEATURES

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Life Editor Alanna Fairey
investigates the little
known long-term effects
of heavy drinking in
university culture

Having a few drinks every once in a while is fun. Ending up in the hospital because of reckless drinking is not.

With St. Patrick's Day dawning upon us, we are all anticipating a weekend full of day drinking and games. However, it's important to understand what excessive drinking can do to the body and mind of the drinker.

"Alcohol is a drug and it is toxic to our human bodies and there's a limit to what you can take," Marilyn Nieboer, the health educator at Wilfrid Laurier University, said. "If you take too much too quickly, the consequences can actually be fatal because alcohol can kill you."

According to Statistics Canada, heavy drinking was reported among 24.3 per cent of males and 10.7 per cent of females in 2012 aged 12 or older. This was a significant decrease for males from 26.8 per cent in 2011. However, for females, there was no change from the 2011 survey conducted by Statistics Canada.

It is not bad to go out and have a few drinks, just as long as an individual is aware of all of the risks that they need to avoid. There are those who purposely skip meals before drinking in order to get drunker quicker. This phenomenon, dubbed "Drun-korexia," causes the body's tolerance level to decrease and you will quickly lose control.

"The blood alcohol concentration can spike quickly so fast that you don't recognize it and by the time you're on your second or third drink you don't realize how drunk you are because it happened," Nieboer said. "You should be eating and drinking lots of fluids in between drinks because you'll suffer from the side effects."

Knowing when to stop drinking to ensure your safety as well as the safety of others is essential before you begin your drinking endeavors.

Elyse Horrigan, the BACCHUS coordinator at Wilfrid Laurier University, has worked to promote safe drinking for students on campus and helped educate students about the signs when someone should go to the hospital as a result of excessive binge drinking as a worst-case scenario.

"It's always better to be safe than sorry, so trust your instincts," Horrigan said. "If the person is unresponsive or mumbling, vomiting, has slow or irregular breathing or their eyes are rolling back into their head, then professional help is needed."

Alcohol poisoning can lead to fatal results if not treated immediately. This can lead to the drinker becoming comatose or even leading to death.

"Your breathing is slowing down so eight breaths or less in a minute is a sign that the alcohol poisoning has gone into your central nervous system and it will

slow down," Nieboer said. "That means that there is no oxygen getting to the brain and that is when coma can happen and it becomes fatal."

Horrigan also explained that it is important for those surrounding the drinker to be prepared to help. She advised that the peers keep the drinker awake and talking and putting them in the First Aid Recovery position, which involves the unconscious being rolled onto their side so they can clear out their airways and avoid choking on vomit.

"Never leave [the unconscious person] alone in their room to fall asleep," Horrigan warned. "Stay with them and monitor their symptoms and call 911 if necessary."

This can easily be prevented as long as the drinker eats during the day so that they have a strong stomach. Drinking lots of water before, after and during your consumption of alcohol. The trick is to pace yourself once you are finished your first alcoholic drink.

"Keep track of how much you're drinking and remember that it takes about 30-60 minutes for the effects of alcohol to hit you," Horrigan said. "Be cautious of this and don't have five drinks because you aren't feeling the affects yet."

The morning after drinking may almost be worse than the events of the night before. Common signs of a hangover include the individual being less productive and increasingly sluggish, as well as having a headache and episodes of vomiting. In addition, being hungover can prevent you from being productive for the duration of the day.

"Most students don't think about it on a Saturday night but if they have an assignment or a midterm the Monday morning and they decide Sunday is study day so they go out Saturday night," Nieboer explained. "And then the next day, they don't want to study or do that paper. You just feel really lousy."

Unfortunately for the drinkers, there are very few remedies present to cure hangovers completely.

"I wish I could tell you that there was some miracle remedy, but unfortunately the only true remedy is time and rest," Horrigan said. "Drinking water can also help with the dehydration caused by drinking too much alcohol."

Both Horrigan and Nieboer encourage students to be smart and safe the next time they drink. They also said to be cognizant of the number of drinks you are having and know what your limit is and do not exceed that and also to be alert to the surroundings and know what to do if you see someone with alcohol poisoning.

"Most people drink to have fun, why would you put yourself at risk and not feel well?" Nieboer concluded.



Diversity in comedy

5th annual comedy show showcases Canadian talent in K-W

ANDREA NELSON
CORD ARTS

If the Kitchener-Waterloo Comedy Festival held from March 7-9 taught audiences anything, it's that Canada has a large amount of incredibly talented comedians.

Kate Davis, Darcy Michael and Gilson Lubin were three of the Canadian comedians who performed during the 5th annual K-W Comedy Festival.

The festival showcased some Canadian talent that would usually be shadowed by their American counterparts. The festival was a fabulous exposure to a talented bunch of comedians.

The events were held in Uptown Waterloo and Kitchener, including the Starlight Social Club. The "Rainbow Show," dedicated to LGBT comedians, was held in the Jazz Room at the Huether Hotel.

"Canada is sort of an odd place to really sort of try to make it as an artist, but I've enjoyed every moment of it," said Kate Davis, a comedian who performed at the festival.

"The community itself, like all the other comics who I work with, are amazing people, and really kind and

really respectful and all those things, like Michael and Lubin, like the guys on the show tonight, like we've been to the middle of nowhere together and back and like I've been to Nunavut, Iqaluit."

Michael, another performer, expressed similar sentiments: "I love performing in Canada... everywhere you go, people amaze me, like last night I performed at [Starlight]... we had people ranging from 19 to 70, any time I can have a good show with that kind of demographic it's just awesome."

Michael and Davis were amongst the comedians who have been previously involved with the K-W Comedy Festival.

The event at Starlight and the "Rainbow Show" at the Jazz Room drew starkly different crowds. Starlight drew a wider demographic, with anyone from 19 to 70, where Michael, Lubin and Davis performed.

The comedians were uniquely funny and presented plenty of material about their families, their energy on the stage was engaging and the crowd responded strongly to it.

The "Rainbow Show" was unique on its own because it specifically

featured three LGBT comedians, Scott Thompson, best known for his work on *The Kids in the Hall*, Elvira Kurt and Darcy Michael.

Their comedy regarding their sexuality was enlightening, as well as humorous.

Kurt and Michael talked about their partners and children while Thompson joked about life as a single gay man. The crowd at the show was had a younger vibe to it and drew a larger LGBT demographic than the night before.

The "Rainbow Show" was one of several specialized show that the K-W Comedy Festival presented. They also had "The Ethnic Show," "The Homegrown Show" and the "Family Variety Show," in addition the mainstream shows held at venues like Starlight and Chainsaw.

The topics covered were extremely vast but one topic that seemed to hit close to home was the local weather. The Waterloo winter appears to be sticking out in the minds of a few of the comedians as Kurt compared Kitchener-Waterloo to being like *Frozen*.

If you missed the K-W Comedy Festival this year be sure to make time: this city can hold a festival.



RYAN HUEGLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER
Darcy Michael was one of the comedians performing at the festival.



RYAN HUEGLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Mystery posters appear

CRISTINA ALMUDEVAR
ARTS EDITOR

The most interesting art has been shrouded in mystery.

The true identity of Banksy, for example, a popular United Kingdom-based graffiti artist, has long been debated and sought after.

In the past month, Kitchener-Waterloo has gained their own Banksy of sorts in a series of posters put up around the Region's cities entitled "The Funner Sister."

The poster in question features a young girl with edgy purple hair and various symbols, such as the University of Waterloo crest, smirking with the words "The Funner Sister—Kitchener" emblazoned on her chest.

"The ultimate goal is to give people something to wonder about. Posters normally advertise things like a band [coming to town]. So when you walk through the city you kind of assume that's what you're looking at but then you look closer and you realize that it's not," said the artist and creator of "The Funner Sister" who wished to remain anonymous.

"It sort of makes the viewer pay attention and wonder what the

point of this thing is that they're looking at. I wanted to do that sense of questioning ... the ultimate goal is just that — to make a bit of a mystery."

Another goal of these posters, aside from creating some mystery, is to try to change the common misconceptions of Kitchener, which typically gets a poor reputation in comparison to that of Waterloo.

"I think that there's a misconception that Kitchener is somehow, well I guess, that no one considers it. I think it's a great place to live and there's so much going on. They have such a great energy and that it wasn't there like 10 years ago ... it's gone through so much change," said the artist.

"When you look at the manufacturing history of Kitchener and how many cool things have been made in the town and it's neat to see all that stuff and see what's going on with the tech community ... people don't think of Kitchener that way"

One of the only aspects surrounding the poster that isn't mysterious is the inspiration for the title "The Funner Sister"— the artist stated that the inspiration for the name comes from the sister cities of Kitchener-Waterloo.

The artist, a recent transplant to Kitchener who has lived in both cities, finds that the "vibe" and reputation of the two cities are completely different.

"I feel like from talking to the people around town that there wasn't a great sense of identity or positivity around living in Kitchener."

"There are so many amazing things going on in Kitchener and so many young people who are moving to the downtown core that I just felt like it called for like some positivity. I wanted to give it a positive identity," continued the artist.

The artist recently put up another similarly styled poster in Uptown Waterloo. It depicted an older style of Blackberry receiving an email with the content reading "the powerful play goes on, and you may contribute a verse" which is a quote from the poem "O Me! O Life!" by Walt Whitman.

"The whole thing is a compliment," said the artist on the lingering effects of the posters.

"I'm focusing on the positive and giving people a bit of inspiration. I know it's graffiti and that people will eventually take them down but hopefully they get stolen and that people identify with them."

Critics wrong on 'American Idiot'

Green Day gets transformed into musical

CARA PETICCA
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday March 8, Centre in the Square in downtown Kitchener managed to fill nearly every seat as audience members of all ages came to enjoy an electrifying musical performance of Green Day's *American Idiot: The Musical*.

The musical itself is set in a post 9/11 world. It tells the coming of age story of three best friends who are torn between living idealistic, easy suburban lives or embarking on an uncharted journey toward their own grandiose aspirations. The show has had massive success throughout North America. Transforming Green Day's legendary punk sound into a melodious stage adaptation fit for Broadway seemed to be a surprising progression.

As the red curtains peeled back, an enormous black wall covered with varying sizes of flat screen televisions lit up with different images throughout the show which doubled as an immense projection surface.

It was a relief that the ballads remained true to Green Day's sound. Starting with the well-known track "American Idiot," the actors emerged in punk-inspired costumes and danced choreography that was saturated with kicking legs, air punches, and, of course, aggressive head banging.

Jared Neptune played Johnny, one of the three best friends, who remained in suburbia with his pregnant girlfriend Heather, played by the vocal powerhouse Mariah Macfarlane. Their relationship deflated with time as they began to resent each other for growing up too fast and falling into the rut that is suburban living. The majority of their story was told on a couch which seems relatively uneventful; however, the piece of furniture was representative of home and family, not to mention a playground for making out and

jumping around.

Tunny, performed by Dan Tracy, marched off to war in a patriotic and courageous effort following the 9/11 tragedy in the United States. Taylor Jones plays a nurse as well as his international love interest; she is appropriately named Extraordinary Girl.

Most of Tunny's theatrical journey was on a hospital bed. Both characters represented the harsh reality of war, love, and nationalism which contributed to the overall political undertones of the performance.

Finally, Casey O'Farrell played the character Will, the bad-boy who moved to the city to pursue his dreams. Instead, he met 'Whatser-name,' acted by Olivia Puckett. The duo became addicted to one another and to heroin. Their performance was completely provocative and encapsulated what Green Day was celebrated for as an American rock band: sex, drugs and rock music.

The acting was completely phenomenal. The subplots were simply highlighted by Green Day music; hits such as "Wake Me Up When September Ends," "Holiday," "21 Guns" and "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" had the audience bobbing their heads and reminiscing.

Despite *American Idiot's* success, it has been widely criticized for being mildly average; the storyline has frequently been condemned as un-moving and unoriginal. The critics could not be more out of touch with the musical's message. Portrayed so unmistakably, the show is electric, and politically charged. The utilization of media represents the explosive impact technology has had in a post-9/11 atmosphere.

Every cue was taken, no line was missed, and no head bang went unnoticed. The incorporation of Green Day into this trifecta of performance perfection makes this musical timeless and unparalleled.

Play shares Smith's story

—cover

followed due to her frequent transfers from one institution to the next.

The inquest following Smith's death ruled it a homicide, as she had been on suicide watch, yet the guards witnessed her strangle herself in her cell. The guards did not enter Smith's cell for nearly half an hour.

Andy Houston, an associate professor of the University of Waterloo's drama department, felt that this event needed to be brought into the spotlight and decided to direct a play as a result.

"I started thinking about Ashley Smith in early 2011. There were a disturbing number of cases of women who clearly needed help that they weren't getting through the system," said Houston.

Houston, being the father of two teenagers and a professor teaching young adults, explained that, "there was something that really disturbed me about a teenager misbehaving and getting that kind of response."

The play was written by UW alumna Melanie Bennett in collaboration with UW drama students.

It was directed by Houston, who clarified, "It's really about creativity, a performance that's responding to how the group is thinking and discussing ... It's really important to me that the students have a voice in it ... It's a form of creative performance that's really trying to get as many voices into the final product

as possible."

Houston believes that many university students would be able to relate to this particular performance.

"I think this has to do with something every teenager can understand, as I believe that the situations in which education occurs is becoming more and more stressful for everybody, in particular the students," he said.

"I think it's just really important to have a conversation about mental health because there's a huge stigma around it, and the stigma is really saying 'you can't keep up' or 'there's something wrong with you' or 'you can't do well in this place.' Understanding mental health means that we really have to question some of the values that are part of university learning that seem to make it hard for kids to talk about the things they're struggling with."

Officially opening March 19, tickets are on sale at \$13 for students and seniors and \$17 for general audiences.

There is also an interactive exhibit on mental health open on the days the production is being performed. On March 21 there is symposium being held, which is an opportunity for the audience to talk about the purpose of the performance and share their views.

More information on *From Solitary to Solidarity: Unraveling the Ligatures of Ashley Smith* can be found at Solitary2solidarity.com, the production's official website.

"...this has to do with something every teenager can understand ... the situation in which education occurs is becoming more and more stressful."

—Dr. Andy Houston, associate professor at UW



RYAN HUEGLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MAWNAGER

The talented Miss Bulat

CHRIS DONALD
STAFF WRITER

Somewhere beyond the heads of the crowd stood Basia Bulat and her band performing on stage at the Starlight Social Club, on March 6, bringing a disarming mix of punk-esque music and power-folk vocals to the club as a stop on her tour across North America.

Looking at her website and seeing her in concert, it is evident that Bulat is quite talented, being able to play multiple instruments including piano and ukulele, as well, singing in multiple languages, even though she exclusively sang English at Starlight.

Regardless of whether you like her type of music or not, it is undeniable that she does have a good breadth of talent and diversity as a performer.

However, the two songs listed on her Tumblr homepage are a bit misleading to the overall impression given at the Starlight concert.

While the homepage songs "Tu Nombre Me Sabe a Hierba" and "Dancing On My Own" project a more subdued indie vibe, the songs

performed at Starlight were filled with more energy and 'oomph,' as well as being somewhat heavy on drums and on bass.

To describe it in a relatable way, it is like a folksier version of some Avril Lavigne or Kelly Clarkson songs, and Bulat's voice fits this tone well, even if its power would sometimes make one inadvertently cringe.

This also could have been because of the speakers, whose occasional feedback issues were indications of either minor technical difficulties or Bulat going overboard, so the notion that her voice can sometimes be overkill still stands as being at least somewhat legitimate.

Aside from those hiccups, everything in the concert seemed to go as planned, and the audience was largely positive, if sometimes inconsiderate.

A highlight was when Bulat recounted the only concert she had ever performed where a mosh-pit had formed, and two people towards the front of the stage started trying to form one by bouncing off one

another.

It's a shame they didn't succeed, because then it might have weed-ed out the people who decided to keep talking during a quieter tribute number, which was an unfortunately large percentage of the crowd.

This would have been understandable if it stopped a little bit after the song started, but it persisted for at least a whole minute. She had explained beforehand that it was in tribute to a friend she had lost, so the inattentiveness becomes frustrating in that context.

It's hard to say where Bulat will go as an artist but it is clear her managers have high hopes for her.

Her potential aside, the concert was an entertaining night that pretty much everyone in the club seemed to enjoy.

If she ever does indeed come back (which is unpredictable at this time), it would be worth a portion of your night out.

Basia Bulat was contacted numerous times for an interview with The Cord but was unreachable.

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Art exhibit to focus on workers

CRISTINA ALMUDEVAR
ARTS EDITOR

The unsung heroes of the working world are the focus of *Precarious*, an exhibit held in the Robert Langen Art Gallery at Wilfrid Laurier University from March 5-April 12. *Precarious*, which is a tie in with Greig de Peuter's communication studies 400-level class "Work and Cultural Industries."

The exhibit and the class both focus on working in the cultural industry as described by Karl Beveridge, one of the artists behind the exhibit, along with his wife Carole Condé. The term 'precarious work' is a reference to often part-time work with no job security or benefits and for minimal pay.

"The issue that struck us is that when we would meet with workers often ... people would often say 'why are you doing work about that sort of work?' meaning we should be doing work on exciting workers like police men or fire fighters. What that tells you is that, in our society, work is not perceived of value or important, it's just your job and the reason you have a job is so that you can go home and consume," said Beveridge.

"There's been a real shift in terms of how workers are seen and are seen as not what you can contribute to society, what you do and what you take pride in."

Some of the notable works

included in *Precarious* include a series entitled "Work in Progress" which focuses on the role of women in the workforce and the various pressures women have felt or encountered over the decades.

As well, a photo essay on the G20 summit held in Toronto in 2010, called "Liberty Lost" emphasizes Condé and Beveridge's activist past and spirit.

"['Liberty Lost'] shows the [activist aspect] of our work. Yes, it does help with things: it keeps us in touch with the communities that are growing also because we're in support for the different issues. We go out and be involved in and therefore keep us up to date on who and what and how exactly to portray the issues," reflected Condé.

While their self-proclaimed activist spirit greatly influences their work and subject matter, the manner in which they reach out to their subject matters, the workers, is unique in that they include the workers in the planning process of the shoot.

"We do visual workshops with the workers themselves. So what they do is not only talk about what their concerns are and what their work is but we ask them to create images on what their work is. So that they actually have a performance type thing so we can map out what the image may be and we ask members from the group to be in the image themselves," said Beveridge to The Cord.

LIFE

Life Editor
Alanna Fairey
afairey@thecord.ca

Unveiling stigmas of transgenderism

VANESSA THAREN
STAFF WRITER

Student, activist and mentor Ethan Jackson is a positive individual who is proud of the progress Wilfrid Laurier University has accomplished. Jackson is also a transgendered person who describes Laurier as progressive.

As for his fellow students, he believes there are many barriers within the community that still exist however he is hopeful that we will continue to move forward to create an inclusive environment.

I first noticed Jackson in a women and genders studies class. In a heated debate between classmates, he spoke of how particular students privilege was speaking for them.

For some reason, these words really spoke to me and many other members of our class. What does it mean to have your privilege speak for you?

According to Ethan, it means speaking for individuals who have barriers that you do not personally face. This could mean telling people how they should live, without being in their particular position.

For example, Jackson believes his white skin gives him privilege that other students do not have, therefore he cannot speak for students of other colours, but he can be their ally.

What can students do to be allies for other students with different backgrounds? Well, according to Jackson, acknowledging our own privilege and being respectful is one of the only ways we can come together to create an open dialogue.



RYAN HUEGLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

“As academics, it is possible for us to pick and choose what information we use to describe others; we have to remember what power and privilege we bring to the table when doing this,” he said.

Jackson recalled a particular incident in which a student asked him why he wanted to choose the particular sex he did. He replied by asking this student the same question. “You’d never ask someone a

question like that because it’s rude, so why should I have to answer that?”

Jackson added that this situation demonstrates the ignorance still present on Laurier’s campus. However, he is hopeful it will continue to diminish.

When asked what barriers exist for transgender students on a daily basis, Ethan believes the smallest things like choosing a bathroom can

create a dilemma for some students.

As for what Jackson is doing to specifically address these issues, he makes significant efforts in the events he plans to make sure every student is comfortable and safe.

Although Jackson believes in Laurier’s community, he also confesses that some students may not initially feel comfortable.

“I want to be hopeful and say it gets better, but it doesn’t always get

“I want to be hopeful and say it gets better, but it doesn’t always get better.”

—Ethan Jackson, Wilfrid Laurier University student

better,” he said.

Jackson believes students facing barriers would benefit from getting involved in the Rainbow Centre at Laurier and the larger Waterloo community.

Jackson’s one piece of advice for students facing transgender barriers: “To access the resources you need to feel safe.”

Although there are still issues within the Laurier community, Jackson believes we have to turn our passion into hope.

“Without passion, all you have is anger, and anger is a good thing but anger won’t change the world, that is why we need hope.”

Jackson is making a significant effort in creating an inclusive environment at Laurier, and believes through awareness we can all make changes to make Laurier a better place.

You’re in the wrong major



BETHANY BOWLES
STAFF WRITER

Looking back, applying for university was one of the most stressful moments in my life. What do I want to go for? Will the work be hard? What if I hate it?

For numerous Laurier students, some worries about choosing a program became a reality upon starting their university careers.

For some, the program they chose just wasn’t what they thought it would be. If you find yourself in this difficult position, you may want to seriously consider changing programs.

Doing this earlier rather than later can save you from extra years of schooling and a lot of wasted time.

But how do you know if you really are in the wrong program? What if you are just having a bad day? There is a way to tell the difference between the two.

If any of the points from the list below apply to you, you should probably consider switching gears.

You’d rather stick needles in your eyes than do a reading

If you’re passionate about your program, your readings shouldn’t be always tedious.

We all get that one professor who always picks the worst stuff to read, but for the most part, you should find your readings engaging.

If you are not engaging with the materials, then maybe find what you would much rather read as course material.

You chose your program based on a family member’s opinion

If your parents really wanted you to be a successful CEO, but all you can dream about is being the next Justin Bieber (minus the multiple arrests), then chances are you chose your program based on opinions that were forced upon you, not what you actually want to do.

Be your own person and enroll in the classes that you are passionate about, not what your parents expect of you. If they love you, then they will support you no matter what you want for a career.

You’re failing most of your required courses

Don’t get me wrong, we all slip at one time or another, but if you are

truly passionate about what you’re learning, getting average marks shouldn’t be too far of a stretch.

If you find your core courses for your program to be going way over your head, it may be time to reconsider the path you have chosen.

You hate all of your professors

Once again, we all at some point in our university careers get that one professor that we just don’t mesh well with, but if you find yourself hating every single professor that is in your program, there might be a problem.

You should find yourself respecting your profs, and maybe even hoping that one day you’ll be as knowledgeable on the subject as they are.

Your program makes you unhappy

In my opinion, this is the grand ultimatum.

You can be really good at something and even get good marks, but in the end, if it doesn’t make you happy, then why do it?

I know, I know, sometimes you have to be practical. A certain subject could have a really great job market, but if you’re completely miserable in that field, then the time is now to switch to something you’re a lot happier with.

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Drink like a leprechaun



SCOTT GLAYSHER
STAFF WRITER

Celebrating St. Patrick’s Day is a wonderful tradition and an excellent excuse for Laurier students to party for a full day in the middle of March and not be judged.

Even those students without a drop of Irish blood in their body can pretend to be Irish from sun up to sun down. The best way to celebrate this indulging holiday is to indulge in a great drink.

I’m sure you’re all thinking “Perfect, I will just drink green beer.” But not only is it way overdone, if you want to drink beer like the Irish, a pint of Guinness is the status quo. If that seems like too much to swallow and you’re looking to spice things up this St. Paddy’s Day, you might want to try one these creatively festive drinks as the perfect toast to the Irish.

Irish Gold

Want a nice little fruity cocktail to get things started early in the morning?

Well, go for that gold at the end of the rainbow with this classic. Irish Gold combines the foundation of Irish whiskey and ginger ale with a fruity finish. You’re going to want to mix some authentic Irish whiskey with ginger ale and a little touch of peach schnapps. Stir it all together, add a splash of orange juice and the

result is a fruity Irish whiskey drink that is superiorly refreshing.

The Shamrock

This is a simple cocktail that can really start your day off on the Irish foot.

Not only is it a beautifully green colour, it also has a delicious yet strong taste. You’re going to need any type of tequila, some melon liqueur, triple sec, and a juice of your choice. Mix these all together in a martini shaker or just your average highball glass.

Make sure to include a little more tequila and liqueur than the other ingredients so that it doesn’t feel like you are drinking FiveAlive. It is delectable over ice but either way, this is a nice option for tequila cocktails to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day.

The Irish Car Bomb

Before we describe the making of this deadly Irish classic, be warned that too many of these can really put you over the edge.

The Irish Car Bomb is a tremendously popular bar shot similar to the Jäger Bomb, but with an Irish twist. You will need a shot of Irish whiskey and a pint/glass of Guinness. Pour the beer all the way to the top and then drop the shot right in.

It’s customary to chug this drink shortly after the shot is dropped in the pint of Guinness, but it’s becoming more popular for people to skip the shot glass altogether and just mix everything, including Irish cream liqueur in a tall glass.

Keep in mind that this drink is not recommended. This is one shooter that is definitely not for the faint of heart and basically requires an iron stomach. Bottoms up!



JOSHUA AWOLADE GRAPHICS ARTIST

St. Paddy’s drinking games



SCOTT GLAYSHER
STAFF WRITER

St. Patrick’s Day is traditionally a religious holiday. I know, right?

However, over recent years it has become more of an excuse to party all day, especially at Laurier. The routine usually consists of early morning drinking, afternoon wandering and late night partying when you’re already hungover.

If you are hosting your own St. Patrick’s Day party and not a full blown cop-attracting kegger, you’re going to want to spice things up. Instead of normal drinking games like kings, and flip cup, which can be saved for any other day, why not try something a little more festive? We’ve compiled a list of St. Paddy’s day drinking games that will make sure everyone has an Irish ‘ol time.

Irish Poker

For this classic game, you will need a full deck of cards and full drinks for all players. Everyone is dealt four cards face down. It is crucial that everyone has a fully topped up drink with him or her because this one can get crazy.

The person left of the dealer usually goes first and has to guess whether they will turn over a red or black card. If they get it right, everyone else that’s playing has to drink their drink for the number of seconds that the card value shows. Face cards are valued as ten and therefore you must drink for ten seconds.

However, if they get it wrong they have to drink the value instead. This continues until everyone playing is out of cards.

Pass The Shot Potato

For some strange reason, Irish potatoes are famous, so why not get right into the culture with this one, right?

You will need one potato, a device to play Irish music out of and a few shots lined up for each player. This

is basically the drinking game version of hot potato. With someone on music stopping duty, the players will pass the potato around in a circle until the music stops. Whoever is holding the potato must take a shot. Caution: this one gets messy.

The Leprechaun Coin Hunt

This one requires a little more proactivity but it can be easily the best one on this list.

First, the host gathers anywhere from 10-25 chocolate coins and attaches a sticky note to each one. Written on the sticky note will be instructions.

These instructions can include things like: finish your drink, take a shot, chug a beer, give someone else a shot etc.

Then use a little creative genius and hide the coins with the attached sticky notes all over the house. Next all you need to do is set your guests off to try and find as many coins as possible. The person who collects the most is crowned the winner and should receive a prize; a shot will suffice.

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An upgrade on tutoring

WLU student's tutoring business takes off

KELTIE JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

From early on in our lives, we are taught that we can be anything that we want to be. We are taught to find what interests us the most and to follow that career path.

In spite of this, the sad reality is that a lot of people end up choosing their career path out of convenience. However, there is one student at Laurier that is taking a risk and chasing his dreams.

Fifth-year math and business student, Adesse Haile, is making his business dreams come true. In addition to winning 2010's new venture competition and placing first with Laurier's Entrepreneurship team at JDCC, Haile has also found time to start up his own business to help his fellow Laurier students.

Haile started the program Grade Up, a tutoring resource for university students. Grade Up employs only tutors with nearly perfect GPAs.

What makes Grade Up different than other traditional tutoring methods is their ability to teach deep understanding of the content and future studying methods.

"Our tutors are straight-A senior students who have a passion for helping their peers," Haile explained.

"Whether a student needs last-minute help before a test or ongoing support throughout a semester, our tutors will develop a customized study plan and act as the guide on the path to achieving their academic goals."

There are three options for

"No matter how successful your venture becomes, I guarantee that you will learn a great deal about yourself."

—Adesse Haile, Founder of Grade Up

students who get involved with the Grade Up program. If they are looking for a single hour of tutoring, the fee is \$30.

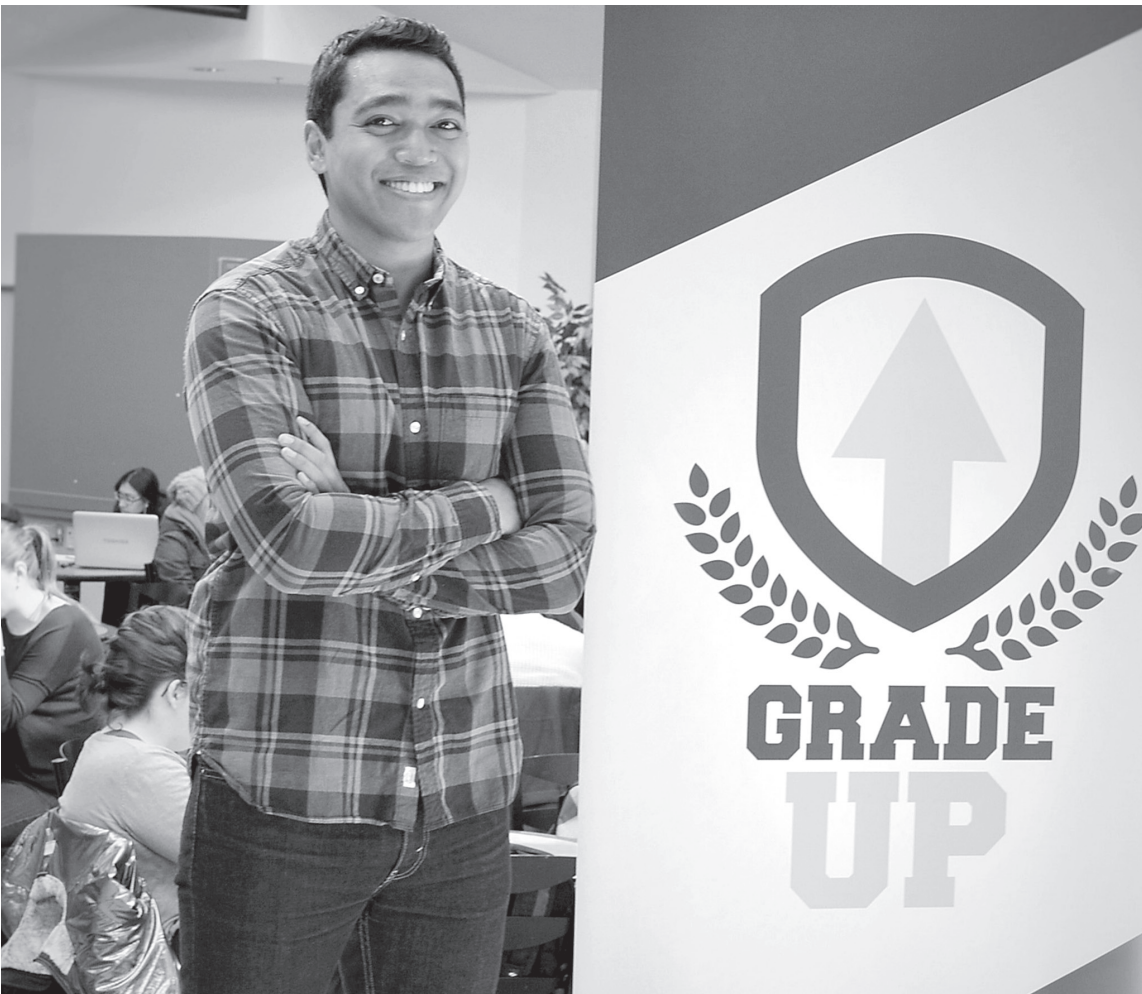
After that, students can pay \$130 for a five hour package and then \$250 for a ten hour package.

The company has been quite successful, having expanded to University of Waterloo, University of Toronto and Ryerson.

However, Haile recognizes that the road to success is not an easy ride.

"I still lie awake thinking about how to bring premium private tutoring to all the university students that need academic support so, although it's often painful, I love working on Grade Up," Haile revealed.

"This semester, I enrolled in the Laurier Launchpad course. Launchpad teaches us cutting-edge, lean start-up methodology, which is



ANDRIANA VINNITCHOK STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Adesse Haile's program Grade Up aims to tutor university students who are struggling academically.

essential as I take Grade Up to the next level."

Haile also shared that Grade Up has many exciting things on the horizon, which will inevitably lead to more recognition.

"Over the summer we are hoping to franchise our concept and recruit Campus Directors across Ontario in preparation for a province-wide launch in Fall 2014."

University is a place of self-discovery. Unfortunately, there are many obstacles that deter people from pursuing their ambitions.

Although it is a good thing to be realistic about your goals so that you can get a good career and be able to pursue future dreams, it is also important to have ambition, which is most prevalent when you are passionate about something you love.

Haile's best advice for other entrepreneurs was to acknowledge that difficulties are inevitable but to stay focused on their work and their goals.

"As difficult as school sometimes seems, as you get older, you will typically take on more responsibility and it becomes increasingly difficult

to take the leap and become an entrepreneur," Haile said.

"No matter how successful your venture becomes, I guarantee that you will learn a great deal about yourself and what it takes to build a start-up."

Like anything else in life, building your own business is not easy. However, it is important to take advantage of Laurier's wonderful resources while we still have the chance.

This kind of drive is what helped Haile achieve the success that he has found today.

Want to know what LSPIRG did with your \$5.23 per term?



Annual General Meeting

March 13th, 2014

1 - 4 pm

Hawks Nest

Yes, there is free food. No, RJ Mitte won't be there. Sorry.

EDITORIAL

Opinion Editor
Dani Saad
dsaad@thecord.ca

“Arts in Action” event informs but lacks engagement

Last week, the arts faculty, with assistance from the Council for the Intellectual and Cultural Development of the Arts (CICDA), facilitated the first ever “Arts in Action” event. The faculty hoped to engage students and inform them on the value of arts degrees as well as what opportunities were available to students through clubs and services. It was an opportunity for departments within the faculty to publicize their offerings and allow students to make informed decisions surrounding course selection.

It is important to note that this event was an unprecedented effort to communicate with students and not only promote the faculty but discuss the value of arts degrees in the post-Laurier world. Student turnout was disappointing as it is for many events running for the first time. Awareness and marketing are typically as important as putting on a quality event. The value of arts degrees is an important discussion to have, and if this event is held again, it is necessary for organizers to understand the weaknesses in the limited approach used this time around.

There should have been more of a discussion or a debate rather than a presentation of one side with an obvious agenda. The event itself, namely the communication between the event participants and students, exemplified the major flaw in arts degrees currently.

Organizers need to ask themselves for next year, “what motivation do students have to engage with this event?” The lecture style, while informative, is distant and unappealing to those already sitting through lectures all day. Furthermore, it is unclear who they were advertising to as there were no prospective students on campus. If aimed at arts and non-arts students it is important to make that clear. Certainly, the discussions taking place and the information available were useful for students enrolled at Laurier, but a broader approach may have been more rewarding.

If current students, especially upper-year students, are seeking out information through this avenue, it may speak to a larger communication problem between the faculty and students. The arts faculty, and all other faculties, should be actively demonstrating to students the value of their degree, how it can be put to use most effectively, and acknowledge the weaknesses of graduating with a degree from that faculty.

As students, we like to hear the positives of our degree, especially because it is true that each degree has value. However, the tangible benefits as well as the setbacks should be made very clear. The clubs and services opportunities, in addition to volunteer, internship, and work opportunities off campus, need to be better incorporated into the event, as a degree needs to be complimented with personal and professional growth.

Despite problems with engagement and innovation, an event that includes academics, professionals and students reflecting on the value of arts degrees is a valuable exercise, even if the methods of communication need improvement. The arts faculty should be commended for showing the desire to engage students and other faculties should take note. If there is a willingness to accept feedback and improve for following events, students could see not only the value in their degree but the value in building a relationship with their department and faculty.

Here’s to a thoughtful, fun St. Patrick’s day

With St. Patrick’s Day coming up, the excitement on campus and among students is growing. There are numerous ways people choose to celebrate and with a new large scale venue introduced to mitigate the annual presence on Ezra St, there is uncertainty as to how the day will unfold. Regardless of where or with whom you celebrate, keep in touch with the spirit of the day and be mindful of other people’s fun as well as your own. Nobody benefits from a hospital trip, an arrest, a black eye or property damage. Let’s work towards allowing the most people to have a good day and that means respecting what individuals perceive as a successful St. Patrick’s Day.

As Laurier students, we have a reputation to maintain as a school that knows how to have fun but also respects boundaries. Unfortunate events at other schools should serve as an example of what crossing the line looks like. Have fun, don’t break shit or each other and let everyone enjoy the day in their own way.

These unsigned editorials are based off informal discussions and then agreed upon by the majority of The Cord’s editorial board, including the Editor-in-Chief and Opinion Editor. The arguments made may reference any facts that have been made available through interviews, documents or other sources. The views presented do not necessarily reflect those of The Cord’s volunteers, staff or WLUSP.



LENA YANG GRAPHICS EDITOR

Technology getting in the way of quality memories



MARISSA EVANS
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

The complaint is starting to get redundant. At the beginning of every term I have at least a couple of professors who spend time talking to students about the problems with technology in the classroom. Laptops are distracting to you and the students around you. Texting is disrespectful in class. You’ll retain information better if you take notes by hand.

I don’t doubt the validity of most of these points. But I also think that these complaints point to a bigger problem - one that the professors voicing them and students who are ignoring them aren’t recognizing.

People are unable to identify the appropriate situations to use technology in. More specifically, we need to learn when to put our technology away and enjoy experiences firsthand. The problem begins with people who seem bent on capturing every second and every angle of their experience.

At concerts it seems to be a new trend to have your phone or camera perpetually pointed at the stage filming the performance or snapping shots of the lead singer. Later, if you turn up the volume on your phone loud enough, you might be able to make out what they were singing.

Or, if you squint hard enough, you can more or less tell that you were definitely at a Beyoncé concert like you said

“
No photo or video is going to be able to capture the true experience of being there in person.

you were. Basically you just paid money to go to a concert where you spent the entire time capturing low quality “memories.”

Maybe you are travelling abroad. Your bank account is not exactly happy right now, but you’ve been looking forward to this for years.

For some reason when you step off the plane you are seized with the uncontrollable desire to document every aspect of your surroundings. You’re only satisfied when you’ve taken at least three photos of everything you see, just to make sure you’ve really captured your trip.

The same goes for the everyday experiences we engage in. At the gym, it seems like most people are unable to put down their phones for the span of their workout.

Is it really necessary to be texting

while on the elliptical or sending a snapchat in between sets? In the same way, do you need to be checking your phone every few minutes when you’re hanging out in-person with a friend?

I’m guilty of this, too. I sit in class with five different tabs on my laptop open, my eyes darting to the clock every few minutes in hopes that time has sped up and class will be over soon.

I worry about holding onto the moment when I’m on a trip. But recently I’ve really come to realize that, beyond wasting my money, I’m robbing myself of the experience.

Maybe the compulsive documentation of our experiences is a symptom of our fear of the ephemeral. We’re so afraid of memories slipping away that we’ll do anything to ensure they live on in photographs.

Even if you didn’t spend your entire trip taking photos or the entire concert with your phone out, it still fragments your experience.

No photo or video is going to be able to capture the true experience of being there in person. So why try when it’s only going to detract from your real memories?

I’ve made a new goal to make a conscious effort to immerse myself in whatever it is that I’m doing. If I’m going to go to class, then I’m not going to be texting or on the internet, I’m going to listen and contribute. If I’m going to go on a trip, I’m not going to worry about holding onto the moment, I’m going to focus on enjoying it in the first place.

I think this is something we could all make more of an effort to do. If you’re going to take the time to do something, do yourself the favour and get the most you can out of it. Otherwise, maybe you shouldn’t be there at all.

Marijuana laws hurt patients



LENA YANG GRAPHICS EDITOR



BRAD KLEINSTUBER
OPINION COLUMNIST

You'd think that the Harper government would be keeping its mitts firmly off the issue of medical marijuana (MMJ). The 2001 regulations allow for people with specific and severe symptoms, as well as those from a longer but less specific and doctor-approved list, to access medicinal marijuana.

The Marijuana Medical Access Regulations, passed in 2008 after a series of court decisions, legally defined the production of marijuana. Approved MMJ patients could grow their own plants, designate another to produce for them or purchase from a licensed dealer.

Of course, the feds only bothered to license a single dealer, who operated in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. As a result, patients began to grow their own medicine, or have another do it for them.

And so things continued, with relatively little controversy, until the present day. More than half of American states already have medicinal laws in effect, two states have legalized, and several more

are preparing to vote on legalization or decriminalization shortly. Public opinion in Canada and abroad is overwhelmingly in favour of decriminalization, and many are pushing for outright recreational legalization.

The Conservatives have (wisely) stayed clear of most social issues and focused on economic issues like job creation. And the public has no great grudge against the private grower system. So why will the entire medicinal system be handed over to large growers and corporations in a month?

On April 1st, all licensed growers, except a handful of large commercial entities who are to inherit the system, will no longer be able to grow marijuana for medicinal use.

The new commercial entities will be the sole legal distributors of the medicine in Canada. Additionally, prospective patients will now require a document bearing their doctor's signature, rather than a Health Canada card.

Defenders of the changes say that the new commercial growers will provide a better product, with more consistent quality and access. The goal is to take medicinal production from the streets and give it to responsible, accountable growers.

The first problem is that the only reason medicinal production is 'on the streets,' far from the controls of the government, is the continuation of the unnecessary War on

Drugs.

The best medicinal system in the world would probably be one in which marijuana was already legal, and those who wanted it for medicinal reasons would simply seek out their preferred strains or concentrations amongst the legal economy, or perhaps go to shops more specialized in medicinal use.

That's far off, of course – though the Conservatives remain the only major party who don't favour, at least, decriminalization. Regardless, these changes do little or nothing to help patients, and are a definite step back from the previous system.

Buying from a commercial agency is going to immediately increase the price. Keep in mind that the approved growers have been operating for several years – they are not amateur organizations, and they can produce marijuana at a rate vastly cheaper than the stuff offered by the new sellers. And just like Colorado, it is already acknowledged that there will be many early delays and shortages.

Doctors don't even particularly want to be the sole providers of authorization – many have personal doubts about prescribing, and leaving it with Health Canada seemed, under the old system, perfectly acceptable.

I suppose it could be worse – the approved growers are relatively well-spread across the country, offering many different strains and

“
Buying from a commercial agency is going to immediately increase the price.

services, and most of them are existing MMJ firms or startups rather than multinational cronies. But the clear solution here is to just retain the old system and license these commercial growers as a prelude to legalization.

The Conservatives won't last forever, and this upcoming election will probably be tougher than any of Harper's last few.

With all other parties moving inexorably to more liberal positions on marijuana, recreational and medicinal, perhaps the Conservatives ought to reconsider this step – and their whole stance.

Letters to the Editor

RE: Archaeology a form of grave robbing

As an WLU Archaeology graduate who has worked in archaeology I am extremely disappointed in this article. Firstly, it may seem like semantics but the pyramids were not 'robbed' by archaeologists, they were actually looted in antiquity and during the invasion of Napoleon along with the rest of Egypt. This sadly is something that happens all over the world including in the present day. Archaeologists don't go into tombs with the express intent of finding treasure they focus on information. Are the dead disturbed? Yes. Are they robbed of all their possessions, ripped apart, and left to disintegrate? No. Archaeologists seek to preserve as much as possible, including the body, and that is more important especially when the whole point of secure and hidden tombs is to preserve the body. So if an archaeologists removes it and maintains it aren't we continuing that legacy rather than violating it? And it can be argued that reburial causes us to lose information since new techniques for study are being developed all the time. It should also be noted that reburials after study are a common occurrence in archaeology; I have done several myself. Additionally, artefacts in museums serve to educate the general public thus preserving the memory of these people. If all of these things were reburied as the author proposes the minute funding gets cut (which WILL happen) and security is loosened (if it's even in place) I can guarantee that it would all get dug up, stolen, sold on the black market, and end up either melted down for money or in a private collection where it would sit collecting dust, including bodies. I mean if you want it to stay dead and buried good luck arguing that with the companies who paid to develop the land and can now bulldoze the entire thing since it was found after money changed hands and the legislation to protect it isn't in place. Also you spelt Archaeology wrong.

–Rachel McMullan

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Letters must not exceed 250 words. Include your full name and telephone number. Letters must be received by 12:00 p.m. Monday via e-mail to letters@thecord.ca. The Cord reserves the right to edit for length and clarity or to reject any letter.

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Motivated students can succeed anywhere



DON MORGENSON
COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR

Macleans' issue of celebrated but odious university rankings are always on the newsstands across Canada and while I am happy to see my own university ranked competitively with other much larger institutions of higher learning, many of us have wondered about such rankings. Such assessments are flawed in their conception and may have pernicious effects on prospective students and their anxious parents. My colleagues and I have spent our professional lives concerned about improving the quality of educational opportunities in a variety of ways. We always work to improve the general quality of the intellectual climate here at Laurier; we seek to involve more effectively all faculty members in student advising; we seek to provide more opportunities for co-operative research projects between students and faculty members; we work at making our science and computing programs reflect accurately the relentless revolution in sciences and the current information technology; and we wonder what we can do with our liberal arts

focus when both students and parents have such urgent vocational concerns. None of the measures used by ranking groups can possibly address the quality of effort expended by my colleagues in teaching and reaching our undergraduate populations. And even if the methods used by these agencies in measuring universities were foolproof, such contain a highly problematic assertion: universities with very different institutional cultures and program priorities can be compared and the resulting rankings offer some assistance to students who are making critical career/academic choices. Another concern is that such rankings exacerbate the rampant consumerism that is now so prevalent among entering students, as well as encourage an attitude that mere admission to one of the so-called "elite" universities guarantees students a "top" education. From my own perspective (gained through 54 years of teaching university students), one of the richest sources of satisfaction is watching students make the absolute most of the educational opportunities any university offers them. On the other hand, one of the most discouraging aspects of my academic experience is seeing students respond idly to such remarkable opportunities – the sense that their education is something given to them rather than something they must aggressively fashion for

themselves. A somewhat isolated example: a student recently asked me how he might manage a C in a course I was teaching. He was to be the recipient of a very rich trust fund, which continued to pay him only if he remained enrolled in university. He just wanted to collect his money not engage in intellectual challenges; all he wanted was a C and he felt somewhat entitled to that C. A point I often make amid heated discussions, is that intellectually curious and intrinsically motivated students can achieve academic excellence at many different kinds of universities and such students will be infinitely better educated than students who pass their time in "top" universities with very little intellectual passion. Such university rankings may contribute to the erroneous notion that a first-rate university education is something students are handed upon admission. But a student's success in acquiring an education depends much less on consumer ratings of the product being offered than on the effort, dedication and creative energy a student invests in this rather sacred learning process. Rankings tend to underestimate the amount of work it requires to receive a university degree and overestimates the importance of a university's prestige in that process. In that way, they may do considerably harm and demean the entire educational enterprise.



RYAN HUEGLIN PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Ambition, not position, defines your worth



DANI SAAD
OPINION EDITOR

I've had a lot of shit jobs over the years that included a number of undesirable tasks. I have loaded trucks, moved furniture, mopped up warehouse floors, dried up wet tennis courts, delivered pizza, cooked in the warmest of kitchens, waited tables, washed dishes and laid sod. Up until January of last year, one valuable and rewarding internship aside, my resume was lacking and my job prospects minimal. However, since then, I have been an

instructional assistant, ran in two elections, organized two more and held several jobs in student media. It's been a trying year but a good one with growth both personal and professional to a degree which I only realized upon writing this piece. To those with ambitious goals and subpar resumes, opportunities will come your way and growth will happen quickly. In times of stress of overwhelming growth, think back to the time where you wished for such opportunities that are causing you to be over-worked or under rested. I haven't "made it" yet, not nearly, but I am confident for the first time in a while that everything will turn out fine and that I have options. I rarely give out advice because I don't see myself as worthy of giving it, but I will provide these small tips in case you find some value in

them. Never aim to meet people, aim to get to know people. People don't remember people they meet in passing and certainly are not going out of their way to help them out. Don't compromise your principles or value system for a small or immediate gain. Keep thinking of the big picture (think royalties instead of a small up front pay off). Most of all, be sure to enjoy what you are doing and be doing it for the right reasons, whatever your reasoning might be. Oh, and tip well. There is no reason to be ashamed of the work you've done — the work we perceive as meaningless — and less reason to shame those still doing it. When overseas for my internship, I approached an extraordinarily accomplished professional in my field of interest for a conversation. After

exchanging greetings and expressing my admiration for his work, I asked for advice on achieving career goals. His response caught me by surprise. He noted that while in conversation with him, I had kept eye contact, expressing an unwavering interest in our conversation. I was not looking around distracted by whose hand I should shake next, he pointed out, but was completely engaged with him. That, he said, would take me far. In my long series of jobs that helped put me through school, I picked up skills that helped me succeed in my more glamorous positions of the last year. Just like the money from those years of part time work help paid for tuition, rent and groceries, all I learned during that time contributed to my ability to function in more

recent opportunities. I learned how to manage my time, deal with diverse and difficult personalities and handle varying degrees of responsibility and control. I learned how to get yelled at, pick my battles, and gain an understanding of the things that were important to me. While future employers may hire me for the experience and practical skills highlighted on my resume, it is the character development and intangible skills I picked up in seemingly meaningless work that got me hired, even if employers have no interest in hearing about those experiences. I'd much rather run an election than run a kitchen and having the experience and perspective to understand that is more significant than any skill I have acquired in the last year.

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HEATHER DAVIDSON PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER
Emily Brown, Doreen Bonsu, Bree Chaput and Kelsey Tikka were all nominated for the Outstanding Women of Laurier award last week.

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SHELBY BLACKLEY
SPORTS EDITOR

Women athletes are taking Wilfrid Laurier University by storm.

Last week, the department of athletics and recreation announced its finalists for this year's Outstanding Women of Laurier (OWL) award. But this award, which combines athletic and academic excellence with community development, means more than just another achievement on a resume.

"It shows that women's athletics is an up and coming thing," said fourth-year women's soccer defender Kelsey Tikka, who is one of four nominees. "People used to really disregard it and not think it was as good as men's sports, but now it's a huge thing and now that we can bring it to the community level, it's a good experience."

Tikka is joined by teammate Emily Brown, as well as Bree Chaput and Doreen Bonsu from the women's basketball team.

In its ninth year as part of the annual awards at Laurier, OWL brings

forth female nominees in the Laurier community who excel at athletics, academics and volunteer service in the community.

Despite the extra load of responsibility from being a part of a varsity team, each of the four nominees expressed the importance of being able to reach out to young women in the community and in each of their hometowns.

Chaput, a fourth-year kinesiology major and guard for the women's basketball team, emphasized the importance of female role models from this award. In her first year, Renata Adamczyk was Chaput's role model.

"I think it's really important to recognize women for their sporting achievements and also academics and community involvement, especially from a role model standpoint," she said. "I think sport is so important for development physically, socially and academically. So I think the biggest thing is being a role model and young kids seeing these girls who have excelled in sport and are able to still keep it up

academically."

For Bonsu, a fourth-year history and English major and forward with the women's basketball team, this is her second time seeing her name as a nominee.

Last year, Bonsu stood beside women's rugby player Carmen Baker and women's hockey player Fiona Lester. And yet, Bonsu knows how much this award gives back to the female athletes at WLU.

"The first time I was shocked, and the second time I was equally as shocked," she laughed. "If someone were to tell me in my first year that I would go to nationals, have an opportunity to go to nationals again in your fourth year, be co-captain, be amongst the leaders in rebounding in the CIS, be nominated for OWL, I'd probably laugh in their face."

As the only third-year athlete nominated this year, Brown, a business major and striker for the women's soccer team, expressed that it adds an extra duty going into another year.

Brown will have at least one more year with the Hawks, with the

option of staying for a fifth year.

"I think it puts a sense of responsibility on me for next year," Brown said. "I do want to take a more active role in the community. Knowing what being a part of women's soccer at Laurier and what it's done for me, I would love to be able to share that with other people and to try to inspire them to be in this situation because it's been the best experience of my life. And I have one year left, and I just don't ever want it to end."

All four nominees emphasized that this award speaks volumes to the growth of female involvement in athletics and community engagement—regardless if they win.

"University is a time when you try to find yourself. Be true to yourself, embrace your strengths, love who you are and everything will work out," Bonsu said.

The award will be handed out at the annual luncheon at the Waterloo Inn Conference Hotel on Mar. 26th. This year's keynote speaker will be Kelly Murumets from Tennis Canada, who was formerly the president of ParticipACTION.

Women's hockey CIS rankings



#1: Montreal Carabins
RSEQ champions



#2: Wilfrid Laurier
Golden Hawks
OUA champions



#3: Moncton Aigles
Bleues
AUS champions



#4: Saskatchewan
Huskies
CWUAA champions



#5: McGill Martlets
RSEQ finalists



#6: St. Thomas
Tommies
Hosts

'Given a second chance'

—cover

about it, you don't realize how serious things are when you're going through them and you look back and realize how they were," she said.

Upon hearing the news, Mathers' life changed instantly. She found herself admitted to Grand River for three weeks following reading week in 2013 and on blood thinners. She lost 25 pounds and dropped her total weight to around 95 pounds. She could barely walk down the hallway of the ward. Her mother was considering flying in from Halifax, N.S. to be by her daughter's side.

After the first initial treatments, Mathers was transported to Hamilton General Hospital to be tested and helped by the health sciences department and the doctors in their ward. Three weeks after her initial admission into the hospital, Mathers was released. Even now, she doesn't think it was the best thing for her.

"I was still going downhill. And that was when we were still trying to find the right doctor," she explained.

Mathers was still losing weight. She was still getting worse. And the doctors in Hamilton said she was the youngest person they had seen this condition in. But that right doctor came along. Mathers and her family found Dr. Brian van Adel, the stroke neurologist for Hamilton health sciences.

"I think a lot of people can take those hard times and let it get to them."

—Kerilynn Mathers, vice for women's curling

Mathers said she owes her life to him.

From there, with the help of the doctors at Hamilton and her family, friends and boyfriend, Mathers began her full recovery. She's now on medication to help with the headaches and the symptoms she experienced just a year ago, from a rare case of blood clots caused by birth control medication.

"I had messages from my teammates asking, 'are you okay?' And the whole time I'm just thinking, 'I can't be out, I can't be out of curling!'" she laughed. "My family was amazing. My friends, my boyfriend ... they never left."

By summer of 2013, Mathers began to piece back together the parts of her life that were altered by the blood clots. She also made the brave

step of getting back in the gym and getting ready for the 2013-14 year.

"It was hard just to get back even into the gym because I had the thought that I could still do what I had done before," Mathers said. "If you were to go to the gym and go for a long run, [instead] I'd just be able to go for a small walk and that was all I could do."

But Mathers isn't one to give up. The third-year slowly regained her strength and got back on the ice in preparation for the 2014 OUA championship with her rink — and friends — at Laurier. Going into the OUA championship, Mathers said on a scale of one to ten, she felt like a ten — a big improvement in a year.

And after the year she went through, Mathers helped the Hawks to a perfect 6-0 record in the round robin and an OUA championship final finish, capturing the gold medal and a trip to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) national championships. She was even named an OUA second team all-star.

Despite what she went through and the setback she faced, Mathers has never been more thankful for everything she has in her life.

"I think I just kept going knowing that I had so much to still be thankful for," Mathers said. "I think a lot of people can take those hard times and let it get to them."

"It's realizing you were given a second chance."



HEATHER DAVIDSON PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER
Curler Kerilynn Mathers avoided having a stroke by nearly 24 hours.

Picture perfect

Bonsu reflects on career after award

DREW YATES
STAFF WRITER

Doreen Bonsu knows how to play with spirit.

The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawk women’s basketball forward was honoured with the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) Tracy McLeod award last week, which is given to an athlete who shows outstanding determination, perseverance and unwavering spirit throughout the year.

“It’s humbling to be recognized, because I had my share of ups and downs,” said the fourth-year history and English major, who dealt with a major concussion for the majority of her third and into her fourth year. “It feels good to know that I’m being recognized so people can have a sense to understand how my past year has been. It was difficult, for me personally.”

Bonsu is the second Laurier student to be recognized for this award in as many years.

Last year, fifth-year captain Amber Hillis received the award after dealing with multiple injuries to her body.

“Just goes to show you that coach [Paul Falco] recruits people that are determined and persevere,” Bonsu said.

On top of the concussion, Bonsu also dealt with spraining both of her ankles, a tailbone injury during her first year and patella tendonitis, also known as “jumper’s knee.”

She also understands the importance of having a support system to



PHOTO BY **KHA VO** STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER, PHOTO MANIPULATION BY **KATE TURNER** VISUAL DIRECTOR

aid her in her recovery every step of the way.

“For me, my concussions mentally, it was really hard ... It was my third year, most people with concussions usually last a month, they’re fine. But after three months, after six months I was still having symptoms of waking up with pounding headaches,” Bonsu explained.

“The offseason as an athlete is crucial to your success during the season because that’s when you build your foundation of strength and working on your skills so I missed out on that.”

“That was really mentally and

emotionally straining for me, but I had the support of my close friends and my teammates and my coach so that was important too.”

Her hard work paid off in her final season with the Hawks. Bonsu was able to accumulate an impressive 95 points after missing the majority of the first half of the season, with 43 offensive rebounds and 56 defensive rebounds. She finished her career with 419 points, 208 offensive and 262 defensive rebounds.

When Bonsu was asked how she would describe her year, she explained it with two words: picture perfect.

“In October I had a doctor tell me that I shouldn’t be in school, yet alone be playing basketball, and then I overcame that. I’m playing now by God’s grace,” she said.

For an athlete who dealt with injury for the majority of her career, Bonsu is excited that she gets to end her four-year tenure on a high note, as the Hawks are headed to Windsor this weekend for the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) national championship.

“I come in my first year, I go to nationals. I leave as a senior, I’m going to nationals. Who can ask for a better ending for their career?”

Hawks prep for CFL test

BRAD BOWEN
STAFF WRITER

The road to becoming a professional football player is one that is both rigorous and demanding.

Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawk defensive football standouts Thomas Griffiths and Felix Odum are well aware of the many challenges that are presented along the way to becoming a Canadian Football League (CFL) player. They will aim to head down this road and fulfill their dreams of becoming a professional CFL player when they compete in the 2014 CFL regional combine on Mar. 20th.

If they are asked back, they could go to the national combine on Mar. 21-23 in Toronto.

“I’ve been preparing for this for a long time,” said the third-year lineman Griffiths. “I’ve been in a few combines before which helps, but none bigger than this one, so I’m excited to be a part of it.”

“I’m very excited for an opportunity to showcase my talents in front of CFL scouts,” said the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) second team all-star defensive back, Odum. “There’s always a bit of nerves but I think that’s to be expected before an event like this.”

Both Griffiths and Odum have been training rigorously for the event, and feel confident about their performances going into next week’s combine.

“I’ll train in the morning with the guys, then head over to [strength specific training] later in the day and work out with trainers there,” said Griffiths on his extensive twice-a-day training. “It’s hard work, but it is worth it to becoming stronger and physically ready for this.”

As for Odum, he has been training hard for the combine too. “I’ve been training and going over everything, just working on the little things that will produce the confidence and technique that I need to be successful in the combine,” he explained. “I’m just waiting to get out there and do it.”

However, there are consequences to balancing both school and training, as it becomes demanding in both of these areas.

Griffiths comes from a family of athletes who are familiar with these hardships and provide him with positive support and encouragement during his training, including his cousin Richard Clune who plays for the Nashville Predators in the NHL.

“Seeing what Rich has gone through and his tough path to where he is now helps me just to see his progression,” said Griffiths. “Between him and the rest of my family, even if its just a message or two asking how training is going, it helps a lot knowing there is support and communication between us.”

The facet of familiarity with events similar to the combine will also be beneficial for the Hawks.

“I participated in the East vs. West [all-star game] bowl in my third year,” said Odum. “It was a great learning experience for me.”

“I’ve been working on certain events such as the shuttle run a lot during my time training,” said Griffiths. “I’ve clocked in a fast time during training, and feel confident in my performance during these events during the combine.”

Both Griffiths and Odum are prepared both mentally and physically and remain hopeful that their CFL dreams will be one step closer to being fulfilled at the regional combine.

“Well with all things you have to take it one step at a time,” Odum said on his future in football. “The first goal is making a team, getting a starting spot, and then, winning the championship.”

Thriller sends Laurier to nationals

JOSH PETERS
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, the Wilfrid Laurier women’s basketball team defeated the Carleton Ravens to grab the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) bronze, and in return, received a trip to Windsor for the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) national championship — and they did it in stunning fashion.

The Hawks and Ravens battled hard for four quarters, but it was not enough, as they were taken into a first, and then a second overtime where Laurier finally prevailed 70-65 over the Ravens.

For the four seniors — Doreen Bonsu, Bree Chaput, Laura Doyle and Kim Yeldon — it means a few more games in the Hawk uniform. Fourth-year Whitney Ellenor was thrilled with the win.

“We have had a lot of injuries, so to be able to come back from all of those and compete as hard as we could was great, and to win it in double overtime is always super exciting,” she said.

Head coach Paul Falco summed up what the win meant for the team.

“For us it means meeting another goal. At Christmas we added the goal of being ranked in the final eight at this time of the year, which obviously means you’re going to nationals. And then to win in that fashion is obviously very exciting.”

A close game has not been a rarity for the team this year, as they have had remarkably close games against numerous teams including McMaster, Guelph, Queen’s, Brock in the OUA quarterfinal and Western in the OUA semifinal. It has provided some nervous moments for the players and coach Falco.

“We wouldn’t mind winning by

a little more ... we have played a number of teams that we are closely matched with,” said Falco.

“It just shows how competitive each team is and how every game you have to come bringing 100 per cent or else you are not going to win,” said Ellenor.

“I think it comes down to who really has the bigger heart and who wants it more,” said second-year Kaitlyn Schenck.

For Schenck and Ellenor, it is their first time heading to nationals, however the four veterans on the team went in their first year, which is a huge factor for preparation.

“Experience in this league is huge. They are able to draw that experience and share what they have learned with their younger teammates,” Falco said.

“It feels pretty amazing, especially with the group of girls we have this year,” Ellenor echoed.

The Golden Hawks are seeded eighth out of the eight teams, which means they’ll have to play top-ranked Windsor, who they lost to in the OUA West final 86-58.

“We have to be ready to play anybody at this time of the year, so we are going to work hard to prepare for Friday night’s game. For us the big thing is to look at the first game, take it one at a time and to be better than we were last week,” Falco said.

The players have a strong approach to the nationals, which start on Friday, and are as ready as ever to knock off the top team.

“Everyone is pretty positive right now, we are coming to work hard this week and prepare as much as we can,” Ellenor said.

“I think that the attitude is we are coming in to play, and we are coming in to hopefully get some wins,” said Schenck.



MADELINE TURRIFF FILE PHOTO

The women’s basketball team is headed to nationals in Windsor.